



American Lutheran Church of Sun City
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WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2020

MID-WEEK MESSAGE FROM PASTOR LOWELL

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This is a very difficult time for the United States of America. **Please pray.**

Now, that might be the shortest sentence I have written in my 20 months with you! Yet, it's as important as anything I have written. I encourage you to pray as each one of us has a unique vantage point from which to express our deep concerns and abiding hope. A congregation where hundreds of prayers are offered each day is a sign of Holy Spirit leading and guiding us in this Pentecost Season.

This weekend's worship highlights the Holy Trinity; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Isn't it interesting that immediately adjacent to last week's Pentecost celebration is a focus on the Trinity? I think it is brilliant, helping us to develop a deep understanding of God's creative, redemptive and sustaining love. I hearken back to encouraging confirmation students to be "oriented" to life, now and forever. If you know the Father, Creator of heaven and earth and if you know the Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, and if you know the Holy Spirit, the advocate of truth, you will not be "disoriented" in life.

And now, we live in disorienting times, don't we? Pandemic concerns, economic concerns, and now the utter intensity of civil unrest challenge us directly. In my understanding, Holy Trinity weekend worship is perfectly timed for people of faith. These myriad of concerns overwhelm the best of what we seek to bring. Simply, we need God's help. May this weekend jumpstart us into a faithful understanding God's marvelous holy unity expressed in three persons. May we return to God at the center of our life to provide a life-giving foundation on which to move forward in faith.

I am thankful for Terri Polk's letter this week as it describes both the strong intent for public worship with the challenges in safely reopening. Bob Wecker, Council member, is doing a fine job of coordinating plans to reopen and we deeply appreciate Toni Molck's work in keeping things organized. Patience is required as the ELCA reopens cautiously, using common sense but always lifting concern for the other as the highest value in this season of pandemic realities.

For this week's sermon, I am so pleased that Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton of the ELCA will bring the Word on the Trinity. In addition, Bishop Eaton created another sermon focusing on the Church's mission in the midst of civil unrest and despair. We will incorporate that message into next week's worship service along with a heartfelt letter from our Grand Canyon

Synod Bishop Deborah Hutterer. I am thankful for such capable leadership. From a sure foundation of love from the Triune God, this is our opportunity to proclaim, invite and bless in Jesus' name.

Love, Pastor Lowell

Re-Opening Message From the Church Council President

It is so hard to deal with the unknown. We have no control over this pandemic, but we do have control over our reactions to this. We miss many things: hugging our friends, children, grandchildren, taking Communion, fellowship with others and many more things we probably took for granted. Help us to continue to follow God's steps and treat others as we would want to be treated during these unusual times. Throughout the readings in "Christ in Our Home, we are reminded that God is in control and that we need to trust Him. "God, help me to trust in you as my help and shield in both easy and hard times. Amen" (pg. 63; April, May, June 2020).

This past week Bishop Hutterer sent out a letter and reminded us that we should "protect our vulnerable people by waiting to gather in person". Bishop Hutterer shared with us that the Grand Canyon Synod is one of the five synods in Region 2. Three synods—Sierra Pacific, Pacifica, and Southwest California—encourage congregations to refrain from in-person gathering through the end of July. The Rocky Mountain Synod is encouraging online worship—what has proven to be a very effective tool for evangelism—until the end of August. Bishop Hutterer has encouraged that there be no in-person gathering until the deaths or cases of newly infected decrease for a minimum of 14 days. At that point, small groups under ten could begin to gather. After 28 days of decrease, groups of less than 50 could begin to gather.

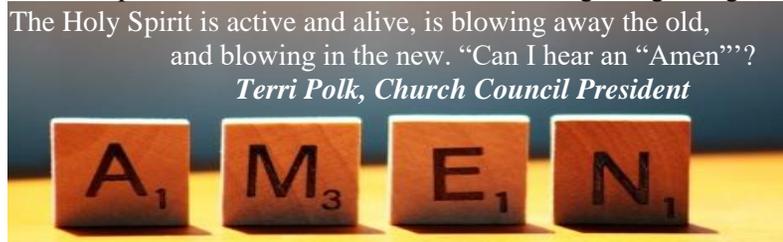
As a reminder, there are many ways, not just worship, where you can continue to participate in American Lutheran Church: online services, reading the monthly Outreach Newsletter and weekly e-blasts, service opportunities, Bible studies which you can participate in through "Zoom" or conference call, prayer intercessor group, and showing compassion for others by words and deeds.

The reopening for public worship committee, headed by Bob Wecker, continues to develop plans so that when we can reopen, we will have a smooth transition. Subcommittees have been formed and you can volunteer for any of these. Here is a list of the



subcommittees and the team leader(s): Ushers, Carole Alexander; Altar Guild, Judy Gorblich and Pastor Lowell; Greeters, Welcoming, and Monitoring Rest Rooms, Charlene Young; Signage, Toni Molck and Dave Tieggs; Attendance Committee, Linda Shirck; Cleaning Between Services, Dave Tieggs; Publicity, Chris Weldon; and Communications, Pastor Lowell, Toni Molck, and Terri Polk. Please reach out to these team leaders if you want to volunteer or share ideas. Before we reopen for public worship we will be sending each of our members “printed guidelines”. You will receive these through email and the postal service.

Most importantly, we need to continue in prayer and remain hopeful. God has this situation and he has “us”. In Bishop Deborah’s words: “God works through you in your witness of hope in midst of uncertainty. God works through you as you are patient, wise and discern how this time deepens our trust and places where we listen for God’s leading and guiding.



Another ALC Heroine

Jeanette Danielson, ALC member, was nominated by a person who wishes to remain anonymous. I was told by the nominee that “Jeanette is a great and kind person who always does for others. She is very kind to me and I appreciate all the kind deeds she does for me and for others “.

Jeanette joined ALC in November, 2015. She and her husband, who died 3 years ago, changed churches due to a change in leadership and philosophy. Jeanette says she was very active in her previous church and also volunteered at the hospital, but with health and normal aging issues, she has had to slow down. She now enjoys baking for funerals, participating in the prayer chain, attends Bible Studies, participates in her Neighborhood Group, attends Women’s Lunches and actively attends WNA. She admits that she does try and do a lot for others around her and has been transporting her neighbor to ALC services for the last 3 years. Jeanette’s fondest memory of ALC is her love of the music and being a part of the congregation. She loves Pastor Lowell. She loves being at church and she really misses worship and seeing all the people during this pandemic.

Jeanette is originally from Chesterton, Indiana. She and her husband were very good friends for years before they decided to get married. They moved to West Mount, outside of Chicago, Illinois. While there, they attended

“Gloria Dei” a church in Downers Grove, Illinois. Little did she know that years later she would connect with Joanne Greathouse, who attended the same church in Downers Grove. She is also now attending the neighborhood group that Joanne facilitates. Jeanette worked in purchasing for about 15 years at Norwood Marking System, IT Tool Work. She and her husband had 1 son, Timothy. Timothy’s job at Anderson Consulting expanded and Timothy relocated to Australia where he met and married Athalie (a native Australian). Timothy and Athalie have twin daughters, now 17. Jeanette says she is able to speak with them frequently.

Jeanette’s favorite color is blue. Her favorite foods are Italian, Mexican and Ice Cream! She loves bridge and tries to walk every day. She used to swim but intends to get back to it. Her favorite hymn is “In the Garden” and her favorite scripture is John 3:16; “For God so loved the world that He gave his only-begotten Son, that those who believe in Him may not perish, but may have life everlasting.”

Jeanette says she is so happy to be a part of the ALC family and appreciates the love and concern shown to her. She loves the congregation and the music that makes you feel like you want to give back. I think we have given testimony that Jeanette practices our ALC mission.

Sincerely, Terri Polk

Wednesday Morning Ladies Bible Study Begins June 17!

I am excited to begin studying God’s Word with you beginning June 17 at 10 a.m. using Zoom. We will be using Gather Magazine’s Summer Bible Study called Of Many Generations: Mary, Elizabeth and Lydia. The theme verse is, “Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.” Isaiah 58:12

Please email me at deborahnelson@cox.net to let me know you are interested in participating and I will send you an attachment to your email with the bible study. I can also send you a paper copy by mail. As we get closer to June 17, I will email you detailed instructions about the link to Zoom to join the meeting. You can participate by video/audio or just audio. Please call me if you have any questions at (402) 651-3635.

Looking forward to hearing from you! Debbie Nelson

Food Pantry

We are collecting food for the West Valley Community Pantry at St. Johns on Sundays, 10-10:30. We need canned corn, beans, and soups. If you need to have donations picked up, please call the Stages at 623-337-7747. Thank you for your continued support.

Judie VanDevere