

## May 2020 Newsletter

### GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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#### Shepherd's Voice

*When they saw [Jesus], they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,...And remember I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:17-18, 20)*

Dear God's beloved, the grace and peace of the Risen Christ be upon you.

How are you spending your days during the Covid-19 pandemic? Honestly I never imagined that I would experience a global pandemic like this. Some days I wake up wishing everything I hear and watch in the news was just a bad dream and not real. For the last couple weeks I have been learning new skills like attending a Zoom meeting, recording Sunday messages, cooking with limited ingredients, and coping with grief, losing a sense of normality. It's not easy. Day after day I try to adjust to new routines—staying inside and working from home, checking the synod Facebook page for any updates, connecting with church family and friends via phone calls, e-mail and text messages, praying for those who are on the frontlines—but I often feel frustrated and helpless. I admire parents with children who work, feed, do laundry, and help with their children's school work every week. Learning to live through the new reality is stressful. It takes time to get used to it. It is a process and a journey.

We are in the season of Easter. Easter is not just one day but 50 days of celebration of new life in Christ. Easter continues until Pentecost when God's promised spirit came down. The resurrected Jesus stayed with his disciples, showed his scars, discussed scripture on the road, cooked and ate breakfast with them. Easter was a process, the disciples of Jesus learned to live in a new reality that death is not the end of the story—the love of God is stronger than our fear. Disciples who were hiding inside locked doors learned to live in this new relationship with Christ. I wonder if the disciples had good days, and productive days as well as messy exhausted days like us. The risen Christ stayed with the disciples and continued to encourage them to experience new life. Death is no more, God's love is forever, and Christ walks with us every day. May the risen Lord be with you always. Be safe! Pr. Miho

#### Treasurer's Report from Treasurer Jay Andrews

Incoming March 2020	\$ 11,122.53
Expenses March 2020	\$ 11,576.63
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (454.10)
Income, Year to Date 2020	\$ 25,656.73
Expenses, Year to Date 2020	\$ 31,541.13
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (5,888.40)

**Looking...For  
Special Music for  
Summer Worship**

If you or someone you know would like to share your talent, please call Vivian at 815-369-4496 or contact the church office.

## Congratulations!

### Our High School Graduates

Kayla Runkle

Braden Diddens

Krista Keene

Taylor Patterson

Coltin Coonts

*Gracious God, we give thanks for the milestones that these graduates have attained. As they begin new phases of their lives, may they know your love in all the experiences they have.*

*Bless the parents, teachers, and family members near and far. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

### May Birthdays

5/1 Shannon Albright, Coralyn Hudik, Dennis Luke

5/2 Lynn Meyers, Laurie Meyers

5/3 Angie Jones

5/5 Dawn Diffenderfer

5/7 Krystal Schlichting

5/8 Degan Euler

5/10 Marcia Meyers

5/11 Ellen Kyles

5/14 Nicole Sullivan

5/17 Mark Raders

5/19 Sarah Geiseman

5/20 Nathan Lones

5/21 Faye Fulfs

5/23 Susan Koppean

5/23 Sheila Keene

5/24 Deb Hesselbacher, Quinten Green & Nathaniel Baker

5/25 Elizabeth Martin

5/26 Drew Solace

5/27 Chris Brinker

5/28 Brad Boeke

5/29 Eugene Hesselbacher

5/30 Nick Baker & Alexander Stabenow

5/31 Scott Luke

*If we missed your birthday (or someone in your family) please call the office so that we may update our records!*

### We lift in our prayers

*For all who call upon your healing name, especially Bob and Lynn Lyvers, Dick Johnson, Delbert Scheider, Jerry, Sheridan Brinker, Gene Hesselbacher, Lois Paulsen, Fern Harnish, Connor Stadermann, Jaden, Jon Forsythe, Brooke, Diane, Deb Lindeman Harder, Cindy Tessendorf, Randy, Brian, the Heimann family, Dave Heinkel, Janet, Paul Heller, Lori, J.T., Dan and Sue White, Irene, Jeff and Deb, Ryse Stone, Harry Perra Jr. Nicole, Meghan, Hailey Bettenhauser, Mary Schick, Kyle, Tom, Brian Gobeli, John, Jerred, Bronwein, Matt and Julie, Susan Andersen and Dick. Pray for love, peace, comfort and resurrection hope for the family and friends of Bill Jacobs, Dave Lartz, and Glorya Kayser. With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## Our Partners in Ministry

This is a challenging time for us as well as our ministry partners. Please remember them in your daily prayer, check their facebook pages, or consider giving financial contributions. We are Christ's body together.

Le-Win Food Pantry  
Lena Area Church Cooperative



### Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center

51 East Highway 18 PO Box 862 Pine Ridge, SD 57770 tel: 605-867-5262

e-mail: [pineridge.center@gmail.com](mailto:pineridge.center@gmail.com) website: <http://www.pineridgereconciliationcenter.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PineRidgeReconciliationCenter/>

Grace Place Campus Ministry at Northern Illinois University

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/GracePlaceNIU>



Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center <https://www.facebook.com/LOMCROCKS/>



### Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

<https://www.lssi.org/> or

<https://www.facebook.com/LuthSocServIL/>

Good Shepherd Sunday is May 3

Just as God sees each person in their entirety, LSSI seeks to provide whole person care to those receiving our services. On Good Shepherd Sunday, many ELCA congregations in IL celebrate their shared social ministry with LSSI.



## Rockford Rescue Mission

Website: <https://www.rockfordrescuemission.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/rockfordrescuemission/>



*Caring Hearts Providing Love to  
All Levels of Living*

<https://www.facebook.com/wellnessmarketing2018/>

## Lutheran World Relief

website: <https://lwr.org/>, Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LuthWorldRelief/>

***God's work never stops. Thanks be to God!***



*During the COVID-19 pandemic, the ELCA churchwide organization is here to support its members, congregations, synods and partners. Call 800-638-3522 and press #4 or email [HereToServe@ELCA.org](mailto:HereToServe@ELCA.org) for prayer, support and answers to questions.*

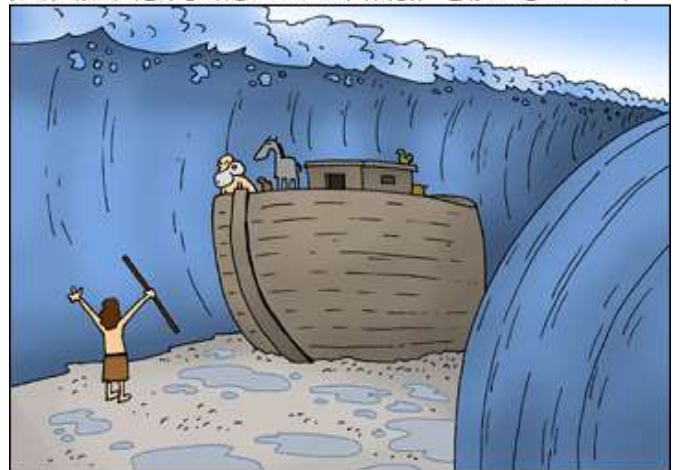
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*We do not know when we will resume worship service at church at this point. Church council members and volunteers will contact you regarding our schedule. You may also check the Good Shepherd website and Facebook pages for updates.*

*Thank you.*

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02-07-2014

MOSES AND NOAH HAVING AN ARGUMENT

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## Holding on

***Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or peril, or the sword?...No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loves us. Romans 8:35, 37***

When the world is spinning, do you have a good handle to grasp? When catastrophes hit, it may feel like you are losing your grip—even your mind. But in abnormal times abnormal feelings are normal. The best advice is to hold on tight and ride them out.

While taking Christ's message to a wider world, the apostle Paul experienced many calamities. Having been shipwrecked; washed ashore naked, penniless, reliant on borrowed rooms; imprisoned falsely; and abused; he was often pushed to the edge. Yet Paul found one stabilizing handle always available—the love of reliable God. When everything else was up for grabs, he would grab hold of God's unshakeable love; indestructible, it was stronger than any danger, present or future.

God says, I will love you with an everlasting love; I will be faithful to you always. In great crises and loss, human love can wear thin. But the love of God is like some hard yet flexible steel. Nothing on earth or in heaven can break it. In Christ, God offers this handle to you. Take hold of it, and it will hold you steady.

*God of steadfastness, help me grab hold of the handle of your unshakeable love. Amen.*

Source: New Every Day: Forty Devotions for Disaster Survivors pp8-9

# Thank You



**Alleluia! Christ is Risen!**

**To our social media managers**

**To the prayer ministry team**

**To church staff and leaders**

**To mask/ quilt/ card makers**

**To those who share love of Christ**

**We thank God for you.**

*Offerings while church services are cancelled.*

*If you are wondering what to do with offerings during the COVID-19 pandemic, **you can mail your offerings to the church.** Church staff gets mail every week and the counter will count and deposit them in timely manner. Your continuous financial support is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact Wayne or Pr. Miho.*



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*The Good Shepherd cares for us.  
He gives His Life for us and to us.  
We give and use our lives in love,  
care and service of one another.*

### **Martin Luther's TABLE BLESSINGS**

The children and the members of the household are to come devoutly to the table, fold their hands, and recite:  
"The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living creature."

Then they are to recite the Lord's Prayer and the following prayer:

"Lord God, heavenly Father, bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bountiful goodness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Similarly, after eating they should in the same manner fold their hands and recite devoutly:

"Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good, for God's mercy endures forever. God provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they cry. God is not impressed by the might of a horse, and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner, but finds pleasure in those who fear the Lord, in those who await God's steadfast love."

Then recite the Lord's Prayer and the following prayer:

"We give thanks to you, Lord God our Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord for all your benefits, you who live and reign forever. Amen."

*Source: Luther's Small Catechism (ELW page 1167)*