



St. James News

Equipping and Empowering Families and Students through Christ

Volume 65 Issue 3

April 2020

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Our Parish Nurse

CORONAVIRUS- COVID-19

WHAT IS THE CORONAVIRUS?

COVID-19 is a viral respiratory illness caused by a coronavirus that has not been found in people before. Because it is a new virus, there are things that are not known, such as, how severe the illness can be, how well it can be transmitted between people and that there is not a vaccine to prevent it.

SOURCE:

Outbreak began in Wuhan, China, in a large seafood and animal market.

SYMPTOMS:

Confirmed cases have had mild to severe respiratory illness with fever, cough and shortness of breath. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure. Have a history of recent travel (within past 14 days), from an affected geographic area. Have had close contact with a person who is LABORATORY confirmed within the last 14 days. Health care providers decide who needs to be tested.

Who is at Risk:

Older population, those with underlying health conditions, such as diabetes, lung conditions, also heart conditions.

PRECAUTIONS AND PREVENTION:

- Use common sense actions to prevent the spread of any virus,
- Wash hands often and at least 20 seconds with soap and water.
- Avoid touching face, eyes, nose and mouth.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick. Stay home when sick.
- Avoid contact with others when sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid touching or shaking hands to prevent spreading germs.

WHAT IF I'M FEELING HEALTHY NOW?

Use the normal precautions for your daily life. At this time the Minnesota Dept. of Health is saying you need not avoid limiting your travel within Minnesota. You do not need to wear a mask, unless you are experiencing respiratory symptoms, then it is to keep your germs to yourself. Use sound safe and healthy practices in your daily life.

INFORMATION CURRENT FROM THE MINNESOTA DEPT. OF HEALTH- MARCH 11th, 2020.

Contact Darlene Lind, Parish Nurse, if questions or concerns. Church office- 543-2766 or 286-2363.

*Your Parish Nurse,
Darlene*

Our Church Records

Church Attendance

Sunday, March 1	126 & 141
Sunday, March 8	154 & 95
Wednesday, March 11	45
Sunday, March 15	128
Sunday, March 22	303 (viewed)
Wednesday, March 25	93 (viewed)

Communion Attendance

Sunday, March 1	201
Sunday, March 15	95
Sunday, March 22	28

Baptism

Amelia Elise Kilpela Infant daughter of Jeff and Maria Kilpela on March 12, 2020 by Pastor Loder.

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

The 3 p.m. April LWML meeting began with a devotion by Lorie, based on John 3:16. A story was told of a pastor who met a young boy carrying a bird cage which contained three birds, destined to tortured and killed by the boy. The pastor offered to buy the birds from the boy, and he then set them free. All of us were once like the birds, caged in sin, bought by God through our baptism, and saved and set free by Christ's death and resurrection.

Information was shared concerning the MN SO District convention which will be held in Willmar, June 19 & 20. Each society has been asked to provide a themed basket for a silent auction, with profits being added to our mite goal. Gifts from the Heart Convention offerings will be given to The Correctional Mission and Ministry of the LCMS District and Love INC of Eastern Carver County. Members were given lists of items needed for these offerings; monetary donations will also be welcomed.

LWML members will continue to supply Sunday morning treats once a month between church services. Volunteers will help with the Gala set-up by ironing tablecloths, and "Happy Mailbox" greeting cards are sent monthly to shut-ins. A Christian Life Event will be held Saturday, April 18th, from 9:00 -11:30 a.m., with pastor Rob Jarvis speaking on the theme, "To Whom Much Is Given." A location is to be determined. We welcome Dorothy Anderson as a new member.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should no perish but have eternal life." Jon 3:16



John George (1), Marcus Linder (2), Jason Rasmussen (2), Adam Koosman (3), Mildred Yager (3), Judith Goepfert (4), Harold Greenhagen (4), Kelly Gruenhagen (4), Nora Gustafson (4), Cassandra Kammeier (4), Stephanie Mattson (4), Dan Smith (4), Randall Whitton (4), Alexandra Brown (5), Ashley Krohn (5), Braelynn Long (6), Lyle Oestreich (6), Jacob Pehl (7), Alaina Butcher (8), Ethan Hatcher (8), James Schendel (8), Anastasia Cardinal (9), David Eckhoff (9), Henrick Kilpela (9), Molly Lanars (9), Gerald Rasmussen (9), Andrew Hatcher (10), Ryan Jones (10), Mya Zillmer (10), Nora Morrisette (11), Barbara Smith (11), Terry Stoll (11), Jack Brose (12), Nicole Glessing-Hills (12), Steve Borg (13), Wayne Klammer (13), Samantha Pierce (13), Lane Sparkman (13), Bethany Kozitka (15), Carolyn Stoll (15), Christine Koosman (16), Jeffrey Smith (16), Anthony Baumann (17), Amy Gabbert (17), Carson Remer (17), Laci Borg (18), Kevin Gruenhagen (18), Cindy Hausladen (18), Trevor Oestreich (18), Danielle Butenhoff (19), Parker Johnson (19), Carter Stueven (19), Jason Stueven (19), Carolyn Wackler (21), Drew Bureau (22), Kelli Bureau (22), Carol Moorhead (22), Vernon Rasmussen (22), David Power (24), Katelyn Anderson (25), Caleb Boese (25), Malayna Collier-Johnson (25), Hadley Diers (25), Brecken Long (25), Taylor Smida (26), Gary Engel (26), Katherine Miller (26), Rowan Salmela (26), John Zander (26), Duane Hass (27), Elise Luchsinger (28), James Wackler (28), Jeff Zander (28), Gregory Baumann (29), Norma Koosman (29), Sophie Salmela (29), Richard Goepfert (30), Delight Kobow (30), Laurie Streich (30).



4/5 Arnold & Erma Hechsel
4/8 James & Carolyn Wackler
4/9 Andrew & Suzanne Koosman
4/13 Greg & Cathy Birkholz
4/16 Joey & Karen Drusch
4/17 James & Carol Borg
4/17 Mark & Amy Bureau
4/17 Mike & Jill Kittock
4/23 Shane & Katie Heber
4/26 Wayne & Patricia Diers

A Word from Vicar Thompson

There are few things that irritate me more than Lutheran jokes. Not jokes about our teaching (which there are plenty from other Christian groups), but jokes like: "Lutherans always sit in the back." Or "Lutherans always have a potluck." And the list goes on. You know what I'm talking about. These clichés are like nails on a chalk board for me. What on earth does Christ-centered teaching, preaching and living have to do with sitting in the back or with potlucks or with anything culinary or habitual? **Because Christ-centered teaching preaching and living is what the Lutheran tradition is all about.** Everything is (or at least should be) centered in Christ our crucified and risen Lord.

Christ centered teaching, preaching and living is what Lutherans should be known for, even amongst ourselves, not for being habitual occupiers of the back pews or for our food or Northern accents. There are millions of Lutherans all around the world who do not have pews, potlucks or Northern accents and who instead focus on the Christ centered teaching, preaching and living that we should be known for. Let it be the same among us. We are Lutherans dear friends NOT because our food is good. NOT because this has always been our church and we will never leave it no matter what (even if that Christ centered teaching is abandoned). No. You are Lutherans because you know that you can receive forgiveness of sins here at St. James, week in and week out. Here at St. James and at thousands of parishes nationwide and worldwide people attend Lutheran churches so that they can learn about Jesus and His love for us. They want to learn about the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world as John describes Jesus. If you are at a Lutheran church simply for social reasons or because it is "what you're supposed to do" then you are here for the wrong reasons. You want to come to St. James or another Lutheran church because of Jesus, and the gifts of life and salvation that He provides for you in His Word and in His Sacraments of Baptism and Supper. Anything else is of secondary concern.

Let the world see not our food or our habits but instead let it see our devotion to Christ. For the riches of Christ's love and forgiveness is far richer than any potluck or social life that we can offer as church extracurriculars. We are baptized into Christ, not into our habits or church sub-culture. Because even when those things are swept away Christ remains. We echo St. Paul when he says, "...**We preach Christ crucified....**" (1 Corinthians 1:23a). For Christ crucified and risen for us and the forgiveness He won for us is what the Church should be focused on and known for. To Him be all glory honor and power with the Father and the Holy Spirit.
A Blessed April to you all!

Vicar Thompson



People of Christ With A Message of Hope

THE LUTHERAN HOUR

Hear The Lutheran Hour each Sunday at 12:30 PM on KDUZ-1260 Hutchinson or at 7:30 AM on KRWC-1360 Buffalo.

The Lutheran Hour may also be heard at 6:05 AM Sunday mornings on WCCO -830. The Lutheran Hour is our church's witness in the public marketplace. We can sponsor broadcasts on KDUZ in memory of loved ones or in honor of special occasions.

April 5

"There's Still Time"

People can be unreceptive to God's love because they are very bad-or because they think they are very good.
(Exodus 11-12)

April 12

"You Haven't Lost Me" (Exodus 14)

April 19

"The Great Pursuit" (Exodus 15)

April 26

"Rescue, Test, Rest" (Exodus 16)

Stewardship-

An Article from LCMS

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Newsletter Article – April 2020

On the topic of stewardship, one of the most common questions a person might ask is *not* whether a Christian should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Of course, Christians should give to their church.

The most common question: “How much should I give?” But what they really mean is this: “Should Christians give a tithe of their income to their local congregation?” So, let’s look at why you should or should not tithe.

Following are some reasons often offered for why Christians *shouldn’t* give a tithe to their church.

Some say you shouldn’t tithe because it isn’t expressly commanded in the New Testament. Lacking that command, there is no “Thus saith the Lord” and no “should” for giving a tithe to your congregation.

Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these, together with treasures (money), add up to more than a tithe.

Still others say they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church.

And there are those who think Christians shouldn’t tithe because of fear. If they tithe, they are afraid their gift will be misused, and they are afraid they won’t have enough to get the things they use, want, or need.

Following are some reasons for why Christians *should* give a tithe to their church.

Even though the New Testament doesn’t specifically command Christians to give a tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to tithe and did. On top of this, St. Paul often describes the giving Christians are to do in similar terms as a tithe: a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of their income (1 Cor. 6:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:7–23; 2 Cor. 9:2–7).

But here’s another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? The reason for the Old Testament tithe was to support the full ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry.

What does it say in the New Testament? “The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should make

their living from the Gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther put in the *Small Catechism’s* Table of Duties to cover what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we’re not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let’s answer this by asking a different question about something entirely different. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? There, is after all, no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest we have, and it states simply for Christians to not neglect gathering together. Even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments. It is the goal.

So, what would you say to that son or daughter? I’d expect that conversation would be something like this: “I’m glad you’re still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God’s promises of forgiveness, life, and salvation, and to receive His gifts in the Word and the Sacraments. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I’d really like you to try to attain it.”

This same conversation is how we should approach the topic of the tithe. It’s not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, the church is ecstatic that you’re giving when you’re giving in all these ways – time, talents, and treasures.

St. James Lutheran Church & School Summary of Receipts & Disbursements August 2019 - February 2020	
Receipts	
Operating Offerings & Donations	\$684,589
Donor Restricted Donations	\$12,601
Missions Donations	\$18,461
Tuition & Other Receipts	\$139,991
Total Receipts	855,641
Disbursements	
Compensation & Benefits	\$379,699
Property Maintenance Costs	74,100
Administrative Expenses	9,215
Program Expenses	71,602
Missions Disbursements	17,056
Total Disbursements	551,672
Excess Income/(Expense)	303,969
Outstanding Loans	
Installment Loan – CAB	43,066

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



Attendance Awards are given to students for coming to Sunday School. Once they reach 40 Sundays, the younger students are given a Bible Story Book and the older students choose from a variety of awards. Some

children are there regularly with others coming occasionally. All are welcome every Sunday – summer time included.

However, now with the restrictions of gathering together to slow down the spread of the Coronavirus the children will not be able to worship together for a while. That doesn't mean that they need to stop learning God's Word.

We encourage families to take this time to study the Bible together and have family devotions. Setting aside time for this activity will be a lot easier now and could develop a good family worship practice. Parents can teach them from previous Sunday School lesson leaflets, Bible Story Books and of course the Bible. It would be especially meaningful if you have your child lead the devotion picking out their favorite Bible Story. They might surprise you with their knowledge. They can teach you some of their favorite songs and you can teach them your favorite hymns.

Gathering with our church family on Sunday mornings is important and we pray it can continue soon. Attendance awards are fun but being in the Word is necessary for being a Child of God.



Family Devotions

◀ **BE STRONG** ▶▶
and
▶▶ **COURAGEOUS.** ▶

Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged,
for the Lord your God
will be with you wherever
you go
Joshua 1:9

April NEWSLETTER FROM THE SCHOOL

St. James Lutheran School has had a very interesting month. Fortunately, some things were the same. For example, a number of our grades were able to share their talents in music and singing with the members of the congregation at various services in early March. It is a joy to be able to see how they are progressing in their studies and in their musical abilities. In addition to their musical talents the kids gathered some \$830 for the Hearts for Jesus campaign to help orphanages in Bulgaria. Mr. Dahl did an excellent job letting the students know about the campaign. You should be proud of your students for being willing to share with our brothers and sisters in Bulgaria. In all of our offerings we remember St. Paul's writing to the Corinthians: **"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."** (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Unfortunately, as we all know the students and staff of St. James had to cut short the last week of our 3rd Quarter and thus add a little extra time on the front end to our Spring Break. It was also unfortunate that we had to postpone our annual Gala. It is our prayer that the current crisis be ended swiftly so that we may return to St. James to further our education and to worship the Lord: Father, Son and Holy Spirit together as a church and as students of the Word once again. In the meantime, we pray for all those affected and those working to help slow the spread of disease in all its forms. The Lord has blessed us with dedicated neighbors and friends who each help serve their own neighbors in times of crisis. During this time, remember your Baptisms, as each one of you is claimed by Christ the Crucified as His own child and as an heir to eternal life with Him. You are Christ's dear friends, and no one else's. **"Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his."** (Romans 6:3-5). Remember this reality today and always dear Saints, until we get to see the Lord Jesus face-to-face. It is an honor and a joy to serve your children in the name of the Lord!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, our rock and refuge, our ever-present help in every time of trouble.

These are times that try our souls. Yet Ecclesiastes reminds us that there is nothing new under the sun (Ecclesiastes 1:9, ESV). Still, this is new to us, and so we struggle under the weight and complexity of our circumstances. In a matter of 24 hours, the CDC and our government leaders went from limiting public gatherings to 250 then to 50, and now the recommendation is 10.

With the recent request by President Trump on March 16 to limit our gatherings to 10 people or fewer, this creates a crisis for all our congregations—even the smallest among us. My heart hurts along with yours. The idea of canceling worship goes against everything we stand for! The pressing question that follows is the same for all of us: “What do we do now?”

We must go to God in prayer.

The first thing I would suggest we do is pray together these verses from Psalm 91:

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.” For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.

Together, we pray that God would heal all those who are sick, comfort all those who mourn, and stop the spread of the pandemic.

This is not government intrusion.

Even though the evolving recommendations (or mandates in some states) might be viewed by some as government intrusion, this does not currently appear to be an Acts 5:29 situation: “*We must obey God rather than man.*”

Rather, this is a Romans 13:1-4a situation:

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God’s servant for your good.

Additionally, this is also a Philippians 2:3-4 situation:

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

As Lutherans, we have a robust theology, rooted in the truth of Scripture, that compels us toward love of God and love for our neighbor while honoring those in authority over us. We should consider the current request to limit gatherings to 10 or fewer as one made in good faith—namely, to help slow the rate of infection and help our healthcare community prepare for the surge of infections that could occur in our communities and potentially swamp our hospitals.

We can find creative ways to continue receiving the means of grace.

Certainly, we can never forsake the means of grace—Word and Sacrament. But perhaps we can best serve our neighbor in love during this crisis period by being more creative and collaborative in how we continue faithfully receiving the means of grace.

The concerns of the weakest among us should be uppermost in this moment, even though we and everyone around us might be feeling just fine. Jesus says He is present where two or three are gathered together in His name (Matthew 18:20). Consider organizing multiple family-sized, staggered gatherings throughout the week. Make use of technology and work together with your fellow congregation members and sister congregations to meet the needs of your community.

I believe we can work our way through this together, with patience and love, and with the confidence of our Lord Jesus Christ and the encouragement of His Holy Spirit.

Your congregation's financial concerns are valid.

We have the promise of our Lord Jesus Christ that the Holy Christian Church will carry on, that not even the gates of hell can prevail against her (Matthew 16:18). Yet as gatherings of all kinds are being suspended, your church may be concerned about financial stability.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is being felt on multiple levels, not the least of which is financially. We heartily encourage you to find alternative ways to give if you are not meeting in-person for worship. This may include giving online, over the phone, or via mail. Contact your church

office or pastor for help finding out how you can continue to give as normal.

We stand united by Christ.

Above all, remember you are not alone in these difficult days. You have your brothers and sisters in Christ rallying in prayer alongside you. We all need each other; there is strength in numbers as we share our burdens and joys with each other. Even as recommended social distancing challenges our ideas of what it means to bear one another's burdens, we continue to come alongside each other in bold expression of our service to Christ.

This is a fluid situation that is constantly changing. But we know that our Lord is ever-unchanging. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). He is with you. As the Psalmist declares, He is our refuge and our fortress, our God, in whom we trust (Psalm 91:2).

The God of peace sanctify you wholly, dear brothers and sisters, and preserve your whole spirit, soul, and body, sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, and He will do it (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24).

Your Brother in Christ,

Pastor Lucas

Rev. Dr. Lucas V. Woodford
President
Minnesota South District, LCMS