

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Newsletter

April 2020

www.oursaviorschurch.info

HEAR IT, FEEL IT, LIVE IT, SHARE IT – GOD'S LOVE

Dear siblings in Christ,

A lot has changed as we have reacted to the coronavirus pandemic. Businesses have had to switch to curbside and delivery options to keep people from congregating. Grocery stores have signs posted to remind people to stay six feet apart. Wipes and sanitizer are hard to come by! But maybe the hardest part of all of this has been the request that we stay at home as much as possible, without being told how long that might be. I know many of us are hoping we can get past this soon, so we can get back to normal.

I'm sure many of y'all have seen the reports and infographics and memes shared on Facebook and other places that explain how staying at home is "flattening the curve," making this pandemic easier for our doctors and nurses to handle. But there are also conversations going around asking if we, as Christians, should be staying apart, not meeting on Sundays—after all, we trust in God to protect us right? Following the advice to stay home seems like we're trusting in something other than God to protect us. But I think it's good for us to see how Christians have responded to epidemics in the past to see why it is faithful to do this "stay at home" thing now.

In the 1500s, there was a wave of bubonic plague sweeping through Germany, and in particular it hit Wittenberg where Martin Luther was. Pastors were asking him what to do, because the normal reaction to plague was to run away! They didn't want to contract the plague if they could avoid it, but they also wanted to be good pastors. Was it faithful for them to follow their congregants in fleeing where plague was ravaging the country?

You can find Luther's response online pretty easily. He told pastors that running away wasn't the right thing to do, because the people needed a non-anxious leader in a time of crisis, a symbol of the hope we have in Jesus. But, he was just as adamant about another piece of advice—don't needlessly expose yourself to the plague, and then accidentally spread the plague to others. Don't go visiting the sick if there's nothing you can do to help them get better. That's exactly what we're doing right now: by staying at home, we are keeping ourselves from spreading coronavirus to others, and caring for our neighbors in that way.

It's odd to think, but for some reason during a pandemic is when Christians have historically done our best work at showing the world what the love of neighbor looks like. Whether it was by tending the sick when no one else would in the Plague of Cyprian in the 200s, or carefully avoiding either panic or reckless ease in Luther's day, or even now when Christians have rallied to provide food for needy households, masks for healthcare workers, or even staying at home to flatten the curve—we have an opportunity to show our love for our neighbor.

This pandemic will eventually pass, even if it seems to take a long time. We'll get to go back outside again, and meet in church again, and do all those things together again. But until then, we have a chance to show the world once again how the love of God shapes how we love others. Let's stay home, worship virtually, make phone calls and video calls, and keep from hoarding, so the world can see what love looks like through us.

In Christ,
Pastor Lucas

God calls us to the waters of baptism, and as we enter the months ahead, keep in mind the following dates that are open for baptisms.

**May 10 (Mother's Day), June 21 (Father's Day), July 12,
August 16, September 13, October 18, November 15, December 20.**
Call the Office if any of these dates would work for your family. 715-273-4570

Council Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2020 - 7:00 PM

Call to Order: President, Randy Winger at 7:00PM

Attending: Pastor Lucas, Randy Winger, Debbi Pittman, Bob Winger, Jim Chisholm, Ann Young, Mary Straub, Norris Berg, Dan Place, Lanette Place

Opening Devotion: Pastor Lucas led us with “Feeding the 5,000”.

Guests: Becky Johnson and Leslie Young

Audit Report: Lanette & Becky reported on the specific findings of the 2019 Audit. Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve as printed. Debbi Pittman has a laptop computer she is generously gifting to the church which will allow her to discontinue using her personal home computer for church business.

New Business:

Well & Septic System: Jim made motion, seconded by Norris Berg to hire Hoyer Bros Well Drilling to install our new well as soon as they can get it scheduled. Monies designed to the Septic/Well Fund will be used to cover the approximate \$10,000 cost. We will also need to replace the water heater and all the kitchen faucets. New septic system will be scheduled at a later date, paid for from the remaining balance in this fund and the Capital Fund. Motion carried.

Monthly Money Counters: Council members signed up to count the Sunday offerings and prepare bank deposit.

Easter Schedule: Easter Vigil will be held Saturday, 4/11/2020 at 7:00PM, hopefully followed by fireworks if Rolf Halverson is able. Easter Sunday Service, 4/12/2020 at 10:00AM. Debbi moved, Lanette seconded, motion carried to approve that schedule.

Committee Liaisons: Following are the 2020 assignments

Education – Bob Winger

Endowment – Ann Young

Evangelism – Debbi Pittman

Luther Point – Jill Rosenberry

Nominating & Personnel – Norris Berg

Property & Building – Dan Place

Stewardship – Jim Chisholm

Worship – Sharon Seibel

Youth – Mary Straub

Council Secretary: Jim made motion to appoint Sharon Seibel to the secretary position, provided she is willing to serve. Lanette seconded, motion carried.

Cemetery Committee Request: At the annual meeting it was requested to include cemetery information on our website. Jim made a motion, seconded by Debbi, and approved to grant permission.

Worship Service FB Live Streaming: Pastor Lucas advised that we are applying to the Synod for a technology grant to help with the cost of continuing to offer this service. After further discussion this was tabled.

Ballpark Fundraiser: After considerable discussion, Jim made a motion, seconded by Dan to table this discussion, inviting MIM representative/s to attend our April Council meeting.

Giving proposal from Annual Meeting: This will be moved to our May Council meeting.

Ministry Planning Event: Council members agreed to expand on the 2019 theme of “Building Community” with 2020 theme of “Strengthening Community”. The event, which includes all council and committee members, will be held on Thursday, March 26, 2020, 6-9:00 PM. Council members will provide the potluck meal.

Council Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2020 - 7:00 PM

Old Business:

Child Protection Policy: Pastor Lucas shared the seven steps for child safety and protection as reviewed at the Pastor's conference he attended. The entire policy will be e-mailed for all council members for review and action at a future meeting.

Pastor's Office Door: Bruce Place had obtained bids for 3 different door window kits, costs ranging from \$53 to \$213. Norris moved to approve purchasing the \$84 metal door kit recommended by Bruce. Jim seconded motion, it carried.

Computer & Internet Policy: Randy will email this out for council members to review.

Secretary's Report: Debbi made motion, seconded by Bob and approved to accept as printed.

Treasurer's Report: Designated Account balance \$28,850. We had to borrow another \$3,000, increasing our loan to the general fund to \$21,698. General Fund balance \$(\$83.33). Jim moved to approve, Norris seconded, motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Written report was provided by Pastor highlighting the Walking Together, Mardi Gras, and our Ministry Planning Events.

Youth Report: Written report, including financials and upcoming events was provided.

Committee Reports: None

Conflict Detection: Mary Straub shared confirmation instruction concerns she had received from a couple different students' parents. Pastor reviewed the typical structure for the Wed. night classes, indicating they occasionally have a more casual "fun" night. Pastor will follow-up.

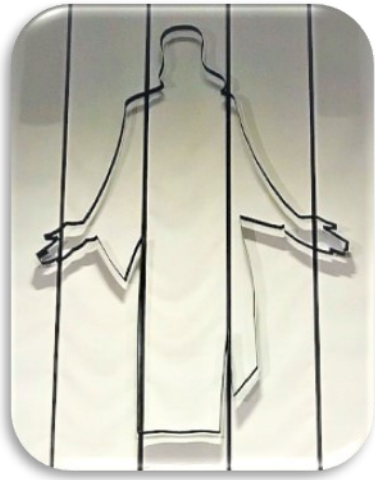
Closing: Lord's Prayer

Next meeting: April 7, 2020 – 7:00PM

Adjournment: 9:10 PM Debbi moved, Ann seconded, motion carried.

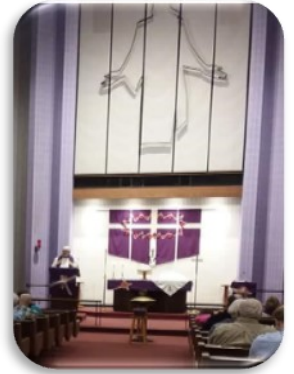
Respectively submitted by Lanette Place

Cookie Cutter Jesus: An Easter Message



I visit a different church in our Synod nearly every Sunday. This Sunday I discovered a 15 foot cookie cutter outline of the figure of Jesus hanging high above the altar. I kept staring at the shape during the first hymn thinking about the outstretched arms of Jesus and realized this as an *Easter* cookie cutter. This is the resurrected Jesus who showed the wounds of the nails in hands when he appeared to Mary Magdalene and the other women. These are the women who became the first witnesses to announce that Jesus had risen from the dead to the other disciples. I was still thinking about the cookie cutter shape of Jesus when the last hymn was sung. After worship I visited with a long time member of that congregation, Shirley. I remarked how I appreciated the 15 foot cookie cutter Jesus above the altar. Shirley smiled and then told me this story: The church sanctuary was built in the 1970s.

Everyone was so excited for the first worship service. The construction workers were busy putting the finishing touches on the sanctuary. The metal shape of Jesus was lying flat on the floor in the church waiting to be hung above the altar. At the time Shirley's daughter, Kari was about 3 ½ years old. Shirley and little Kari were checking out the progress in the sanctuary. Kari, a normal curious child, stepped into the cookie cutter frame and stood in the middle of the Jesus shape. Kari said to Shirley, "Look mommy, I'm standing in Jesus' hand." It was a sweet memory of that long ago moment. Shirley then went on to finish that story. She told me that her daughter Kari died of complications from cancer treatment two years ago. She was only 46. Shirley said that she finds comfort in knowing that her daughter is now resting forever "in Jesus' hands." She often thinks about Kari when she sees the shape of Jesus above the altar. She envisions her daughter in Jesus, resting in Jesus. This Easter, remember we are "in Jesus." We have been baptized into his death and resurrection. We are people who believe "in Jesus."



Friends, as I write this I realize that we are living in complicated times, COVID-19 frightens, cancer kills, politics are ugly, wars rage, immigrant and refugees suffer, racism, gun violence, sexism, climate change, drug abuse are real concerns and yet here we are standing "in Jesus." During this season of Easter, no matter where you are on your spiritual journey, know that the resurrected Jesus reaches out his nail scarred hands to us all, appearing to us in our grief, in our scariest moments, in our despair. This Easter Jesus walked on the road to Emmaus with the two grieving disciples. This is the resurrected Jesus who appeared to the terrified disciples in the locked room and said "peace be with you." This is the resurrected Jesus who ascended into heaven and says to us all, "Go and make disciples of all nations and remember I am with you ALWAYS to the end of the age." You are "in Jesus."

Go in peace and share this Easter good news with the world.

Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

¹I bake and decorate hundreds of rolled out cookies every year and have a collection of old cookie cutters.


²The women at the tomb were the first witnesses to the resurrection. 2020 is the 50th Anniversary of the ordination of women pastors in the United States. Save the date, November 7, 2020 is the Synod's Day of Celebration for the 50th Anniversary at Luther Park's new ministry center.

³Thank you to Shirley Bostrom for giving me permission to share this part of her story.

Romans 6:3-4 Do you not know that all of us who have been **baptized in Christ Jesus** were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

2 Corinthians 5:17 So if anyone is **in Christ**, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT & SERVE

 **BACKPACKS FOR THE WEEK:** With school being closed, BACKPACKS ARE BEING HANDED OUT FOR THE WEEK RATHER THAN THE WEEKEND. You may drop off your donations at Nilssen's Grocery store in Ellsworth. There is a large tub in the entryway marked Backpack Program. Once we get back to church we will collect your donations there again as in the past. Thank you for continuing to support this program.

These are the items that are most needed:

LARGE (double size) cans of Tuna or Chicken -we need lots!

Bear Creek Soups (Chicken based if possible) but whatever works! (lighter than cans in the bags, and more servings from the packages ;)

Packages/Boxes of Instant Rice (like medium sz boxes)

Packages of Instant Mashed Potatoes (no flavors if possible, just basic mashed potatoes)

CREAMY Peanut Butter (18 oz)

Raisins (1 pound boxes)

Boxes of COLD Cereal (NON-sugary) Corn Flakes, Rice Krispies, Cheerios)

Cans Brown Beans

Boxes Mac N Cheese



During the month of May, if we are back to attending church, we will once again be collecting kids winter gear: coats, snow pants, boots, hats, mittens/gloves, scarves. If you are stuck at home cleaning out closets, and finding winter wear that you no longer use and is in good condition, or if you have the opportunity to purchase new winter

wear on clearance, that would be greatly appreciated. In hopes that we will be able to worship at Our Savior's in May, we will have a collection box located in the narthex throughout the month. Articles must be clean, no rips or tears, with working zippers. These donated items will be stored until fall when they will be given to needy families right here in Pierce County.

Hope you are all safe and healthy and that we will soon be back to our church family at Our Savior's.

Keep praying and washing your hands.

Evangelism Committee: Heather Johnson, Sharon Peterson, Pauline Laughnan

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. (Isaiah 41:10)

Well Update: The well drilling is still on schedule. Hoyer's will be starting in the next couple of weeks.

THANK YOU

Thank you to the Men in Mission for planning a Birthday Celebration for me that ending up being on Monday March 16th in East End. God Bless Algot!

Thank you for all the 85th Birthday Wishes! God Bless Pearl Johnson.

Grace Place Shelter and the COVID-19 Response



Hello All:

Just wanted to send you a quick message on how we are navigating the COVID-19 Crisis at Grace Place Shelter.

Inside our building we are sanitizing, cleaning, hand washing and working on social distancing as much as possible in our shelter. Our staff is still coming into care for those who are living at Grace Place, 24 hours a day, we are here helping our most vulnerable. We are thrilled that despite the recent crisis, some of our residents are making progress on finding permanent housing and employment and we will have people moving soon into their own apartments!

We are continuing to serve our homeless and others in need.
In times of crisis, we count on the support of our community.
Here are three ways that you could help the homeless today.

1. Pray. We are praying for our community and we could use your prayers too.
2. We are currently only allowing NEW donations of items.

Our most needed items are the things that many of you may need now too.

If you are able to help, we could use:

Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Cleaning Supplies, Hand Soap and Hand Sanitizer.

If you can help, these items can be brought to the front door of Grace Place Shelter.

We are not allowing any visitors in the building at this time in order to keep our residents, staff and our community as healthy as possible. (Some donors have been able to mail items to us by ordering online and having items shipped to Grace Place, this is a very helpful option)

3. Financial donations are needed. As needs increase, we have been asked to provide additional resources to those in need.

If you are able to send in a donation to help, please send it to: **Grace Place 505 W. 8th Street New Richmond, WI 54017.**

Thank you so much for your continued support. It means so much to us to have a community that cares for those in need.
You are such an encouragement!
Remember Hope is greater than Fear.
Take Care everyone!

PS. Please follow our Facebook page: [Grace Place Salvation Army](#) to stay current on our shelter. We also have a website: www.SAgraceplace.org

Angela L. Moulton

Media and Fundraising Manager

St. Croix, Polk and Burnett Counties

Salvation Army

715-246-1222 St. Croix

715-263-2900 Polk

715-497-4438 Cell

Doing the Most Good Every year, The Salvation Army helps nearly 30 million people, roughly one per second.

Support us at donate.salvationarmyusa.org.

APRIL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 9am online Worship	6	7	8	9 Maundy Thursday	10 Good Friday	11 Easter Vigil
12 Easter Sunday 9am Online Worship	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 9am online Worship	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 9am online Worship	27	28	29	30		

We will inform the Church Family and Friends when it is safe to schedule activities again. In the meantime please follow the church Facebook page and website for Worship Service messages.

In Need of Prayer



Gene Ostendorf, Jeremy Anderson, Lilli Graf, Brian Hoitomt, Tom Springette, Julie Mazac, Ann Siebenaler, Gary Johnson, Gerald Place, Laura Kemmerer, Anna Walentowski, Michele Klennert, Betty Davidson, Alan Nelson, Zachery Caterer, and Kristen Anderson. If you know of anyone that should be on our prayer list please contact the office.

2020 Atrium Post Acute Care & Preferred Living combined Schedule for Our Savior's

Wednesday May 20th
1:30pm Preferred Living
2:30pm Atrium Senior Living

Wednesday September 9th
1:30pm Preferred Living
2:30pm Atrium Senior Living

Wednesday December 9th
1:30pm Preferred Living
2:30pm Atrium Senior Living

2020 SYNOD ASSEMBLY



BUILDING A BIGGER TABLE

MAY 16TH 2020
TRINITY LUTHERAN,
EAU CLAIRE