



Heal me, Lord, and I'll be healed. Save me and I'll be saved, for you are my heart's desire. See how they harass me: "Where's the Lord's word? Let it come now!" Yet I didn't urge you to bring disaster; I didn't want the calamity to happen. You know what comes out of my mouth; it's always before you. Don't terrorize me; you are my refuge in time of disaster. -Jeremiah 17:14-17

I have been sitting in prayer with these words from Jeremiah a lot over the last couple of weeks. I find myself crying out for healing, and saying time and again "I don't want this calamity." I didn't choose this pandemic, and I am looking to God to be my refuge even though things are still not as I wish they were. I too grow impatient with quarantine, and I am counted among the group that's harassing Jeremiah saying "Where's the Lord's word? Let it come now!" The best we can do, is to continue forward with what we have, and to look for God at work in our time of distress. Because even if we did not chose the calamity, God will surely be there working out in the world where God is needed most. And God has promised to be with us especially in the hard times like these ones. It is precisely in the time of disaster that God has promised to be a refuge.

Recently Bishop Katherine of the Northern Great Lakes Synod shared a power point with council presidents of all our ELCA congregations entitled "Winter, Blizzard, Ice Age." Where she talked about how we have different tools and coping strategies for different sized calamities. So, for instance, when something big like Winter is coming we know what to do like changing our tires, and gassing up the snow blowers. And then there's something sudden like a blizzard that we also have similar tools to cope with. However, what we face now is more like an Ice Age. For a long-term problem like this at the massive scale that it has hit us, we have no tools in our garage that currently outfit us for something that massive. And so we as a church are forced to adapt, and hunker down for the long-haul through a calamity for which we have no easy immediate answers. And I thank you for your compassion and your trust in me as a leader during this time. Because I am having to adapt and change as we go and I have the same scarcity of tools to deal with this as we all do. This is why I am fervently praying along with Jeremiah, and we're exploring as many ways as we can to be church in the time of Corona Virus. I am giving things my reverent best guess, but that's all it is: a best guess. And so I rely on your compassion as we test the waters of faith in this calamity.

I am looking forward to our fall educational programs that are starting up this month. Inside this newsletter you will find more about our plan for distanced

Sunday School and for bible studies. We will also be starting Confirmation Classes, and we're going to give a Sunday Morning parking lot worship a go the last Sunday of the month, while the weather still might permit it. Let God be our refuge and strength!

JOIN US!! For Parking Lot worship on Saturday evenings, 5:00pm and for Sunday morning worship via ZOOM at 10:30am and on Sunday, September 27th , we will meet in the parking lot for in person worship at 11:15am.

Join us for Bible Study

The Monday night Bible study group will be and 4th Mondays, starting Sept. 14th. Pr. study on the book of Ecclesiastes. We will meet in person in Augustana Hall. Be sure to wear your mask and social distance. If you have any questions about this opportunity for study, please contact the office.



meeting at 6:30, every 2nd Tommy will be leading our



Amy Johnson who passed away December 26, 2019. There was a gravesite memorial service for Amy on August 22, 2020. The family would like to thank everyone for their words of encouragement and prayers. Amy loved her church and all of her friends here.

Calling All
Gardeners!



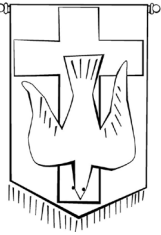
We need help with keeping up the landscaping around our church property. Bushes need to be trimmed, weeds pulled, and trimming around the parking lot. If you have an hour or a day, we can use your help! Please see Shirley in the office.

Sunday School for the fall will be done remotely. We are going to play a game similar to Candyland. Each week kids will have an assignment, task, project or video to complete. Once they complete the point. After collecting so many points they will get prizes. More information will be available on the website. Parents and grandparents are encouraged to reach out to sheilaclark14@gmail.com to make sure they get prizes. More information is sent to them.



task they get a get prizes. More website. Parents and Sheila Clark at information is sent to

Confirmation Class



Confirmation classes will begin on Sunday, September 20th at 4:00pm for one hour. This year we have three confirmands: Griffin Maline, Natalie Gauthier, and Grace Mason. Confirmation will meet **in person** either in Augustana Hall or the hall Conference room.

Circle News

The Circles will be able to start their monthly meetings on September 14th. If you are not a member of a circle and would be interested in joining one, please contact any one of the following ladies for more information:

- Sarah Circle—Liz Macklem
- Joy Circle—Donna Gauthier
- Ruth Circle—Verda Kreuzwieser
- Hope Circle—Sheila Clark

The **Sarah Circle** meets on Mondays at 1:00pm

The **Joy Circle** meets on the second Thursday at 10:00am.

The **Ruth Circle** meets on the third Wednesday at 11:30am.

The **Hope Circle** meets on the third Thursday at 6:00pm.

Be sure to check with your Circle Leader to find out if and where your circle will be meeting.

Quilting



On Monday, September 14th at 9:15 am, humming with the sound of sewing conversation. The quilters will be back making quilts for people in need around the world. If you have fabric to donate it will be much appreciated. If you are interested in joining the group but don't sew, don't let that stop you. There are other things you can do. You will need to wear a mask and be sure you are socially distanced. At this time eating lunch together in the hall may not be possible. Also, they will be looking for someone who would be able to take the boxes of quilts and kits to First Lutheran in Gladstone tentatively on October 10th. If you would be willing to help, please contact the church office at 341-5427.

Augustana Hall will be machines and lively doing what they love,

The Evangelism & Membership Committee met Tuesday, August 11, 202. We discussed 3 items of importance. **First:** the annual God's Work/Our Hands, a synod wide project held in September. We decided this year we would clean the head stones at the Lakeview Cemetery. We plan to do this on Saturday, September 12th. We will meet at the church at 10:00am and go from there. We have cleaning supplies, gloves, Wet-n-Forget to spray on the older stones and some spray bottles. If you plan to participate, please bring a pail, sponges and soft brushes. Clean paint brushes will work. This is not just a committee project, this is a church event and we encourage everyone who is able to participate. If you would like to help, please call Donna Mott at 341-6414.

Second: Adopt-a-Highway: the first was cancelled state wide due to Covid 19. The second one we decided to cancel due to the possibility of extreme heat the week it was scheduled. As it turned out the heat would not have been a factor. The committee voted on have the Adopt-a-Highway on Saturday September 26th at 10:00am, with a rain day scheduled for Thursday, October 1st between 4-6:00pm. For either day we will meet in the church parking lot. We will have a table set up in the walkway with vests, bags, gloves, grabbers, and maps. As we did last year a few workers set their own time and area to clean and that is fine as long as you let me know. A reminder, children under 12 **can not** and young people 13-18 must have an adult with them. We can not pick up hazardous materials or dead animals. If you are interested in helping, please call Donna Mott.

Third: The most important item of all. We decided with Covid 19 we feel the need to keep in touch with each of our members. Shirley helped by compiling a list of members. We are going to attempt to keep in touch with everyone. This will be a huge commitment and we need many volunteers to offer their time and concern. This commitment will be for several months until we are able to worship in person safely.

That is what Evangelism and Membership is all about-caring and being concerned for all members not just a few. Please join us for this very important mission. God told us to be disciples, this is a way for us to step up and do our part. Please call me, Donna Mott, by September 23rd and a member of our committee will contact you with details. We would like to start this in October. Since our meeting, I have been contacted by Sherri Krause who like volunteers to help paint the historical home at the Water Tower. If anyone is interested in helping with this project, please contact Sherri, or call Shirley at the church office, 341-5427, and she will get the message to Sherri.

Thank You,
Evangelism and Membership Committee
Donna Mott
Cindy Olli
Cathy Knudson
Larry Peterson
Ruth Jones
Mary Ansell



When schools were closed in March due to Covid the Backpack Buddies Program changed from giving out a bag off weekend food a week to giving out 4 bags of food monthly in the church parking lot. We advertised through social media and the local papers. The contents of the bags were unchanged, 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 suppers and 4 snacks. Because the committee felt there was a greater need, we included all children in the program. All we asked from people who came to pick up food was how many children they needed food for. From March 20, 2020 through May 20, 2020 we provided 1034 bags of food for local children. On June 29, 2020 we expanded what we gave out to include frozen dinners which consisted of chicken nuggets and macaroni and cheese. We gave 88 bags of food and 88 frozen dinners in June. July 27, 2020 Backpack Buddies handed out 156 bags of food and 76 frozen meals. In August 2020, 382 bags of food were given and 66 frozen meals. We also gave 68 bags full of 6 snacks per bag because the snacks were expiring.

We were expecting to start the regular program when school started but are unable to do so. No one is allowed in the schools but staff and students, and the school is unable to accept the food. We will continue to hand out the 4 bags of food per student per month in the church parking lot. The next distribution date is September 24th, from 2:30pm-4:30pm.

The Backpack Program would like to thank everyone for their continued support of the program.

Gifts to our congregation have been given in memory of

Donna Barber

John & Jo-Nell Berger—Back Pack Buddies

Tim & Erin Russel—Back Pack Buddies

Barber Family Memorials—Back Pack Buddies

Eleanor Jackson

John & Jo-Nell Berger—Back Pack Buddies

Robert Panek

John & Jo-Nell Berger—Back Pack Buddies

Patricia (Curran) Hough

Jeff & Polly Champeau—Back Pack Buddies

Gary & Nancy Demers—Back Pack Buddies

Keith & Mary Rochefort—Back Pack Buddies

Amy Johnson

Nancy & Harry Whaling—Memorial

Robert Panek

Thank you to the family of Robert Panek for glass panel of a Trillium that has been hung along side the other two beautiful panels.



the lovely stained in Augustana Hall. The first panel, a Butterfly was donated by the Lois Graham family and the second panel, a Sunflower, was donated by the Tom Klaus family. What beauty you have added to our hall.



Several of the children from our congregation have art work displayed in the Lake Effects Art Center. If you have a moment, please stop by and take a look. Also check out the book *"The Hiawatha Anthology"* our own Larry Peterson published and pick up a copy.

Upcoming Scripture Readings

September 6 —Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Ezekiel 33:7-11, Psalm 119:33-40, Romans 13:8-14,
Matthew 18:15-20

September 13—Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 50:15-21, Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13, Romans 14:1-12,
Matthew 18:21-35

September 20—Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Jonah 3:10—4:11, Psalm 145:1-8, Philippians 1:21-30,
Matthew 20:1-16

September 27—Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32, Psalm 25:1-9, Philippians 2:1-13,
Matthew 21:23-32



Thank you to all who have shared their musical talents with us this summer: Darrell Dixon, Elise Calhoun, Bonnie Moody, Rebecca Peterson and Rodger Chard and Maurita Holland. Your music has added so much to our Zoom worship.



⁴The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, "If only we had meat to eat! ⁵We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; ⁶but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at."

~Numbers 11: 4-6

Dear Friends in Christ,

Does your strength feel dried up? Is there nothing at all but online worship or half-empty pews to look at? Do you remember when we took regular in-the-sanctuary worship for granted? We remember the fellowship, the potlucks, the singing, gathering around the altar for the Lord's Supper. Do you have a strong craving for going back to the way things used to be?

The thing is...we are in the wilderness. We have left Egypt (the good and the bad) behind, and God is making us, the church (and maybe society too), into something new. And if the experience of the Israelites is any guide, we are only in the beginning of our journey. If, as Dr. Osterholm says (an epidemiologist) we are only in the second inning of a nine-inning game, then we are only in the first decade of a forty-year journey, or in the first months of what will take a year to two years.

It is rather remarkable how the wilderness experience of the Israelites and our own pandemic wilderness experience is similar.

- Moses was under a lot of stress, and so is your pastor.

Every day is full of new decisions. There is much to take into consideration and pastors are being pulled and pushed into exhaustion. Do we resume in person worship? How? When? What if cases in the community are rising? What if someone shows up and won't wear a mask? What if more people show up than we can accommodate for social distancing? What if the most vulnerable come, how can we be sure they'll be safe? What do I say to someone who doesn't believe the threat is real?

Please be patient with your pastor and your leadership. The way forward is far from clear... for returning to worship, fall programming, and so much more.

- Moses learned not to be a solo leader and others stepped up to help.

At first it was all Moses. He went up the mountain alone and came down alone. But then he appointed more leaders to help shoulder the burden of leadership.

When the pandemic first started, your pastoral leader scrambled to provide resources and/or an online worship. There wasn't time to recruit volunteers, there was too much else to do. He

or she may not have had the means or initiative to get the council or others involved in meeting the needs of ministry in the congregation, much less the community.

But now, as we settle in for the long haul, councils and other congregation members would do well to ask their pastor how they can help, if they are not already doing so. Ask:

~Who needs a phone call and to be prayed with?

~What new technology can I learn that would help?

~Are there mailings I can help put together?

~Are there email lists and cell phone lists that need to be updated?

~Can I be a part of the online worship effort?

~Can I help someone use ZOOM?

Or please simply send a note of thanks and affirmation, so your pastoral leader knows their efforts are appreciated, and hold them in prayer.

- As their wilderness journey continued, the Israelites complained about a few things and so do we.

Wilderness times are full of high anxiety and stress. There is confusion. There is grief because we have lost the familiar and fear about an uncertain future. These feelings sometimes come out as anger or sadness or just untethered emotion.

Sometimes the best we can do is to take a deep breath and invite others to do the same. The words of Julian of Norwich come to mind...again, "All will be well. All will be well. In all manner of things, all will be well."

It is not up to you or me to fix the church or solve the pandemic or answer every question in the moment it is asked. This is a time of prayer and discernment, of conversation together to determine what is best, of asking how God is at work, and erring on the side of care for the neighbor.

Easier said than done. But being gentle with yourself and others is a good beginning.

- The Israelites arrived in the promised land a different people than when they left Egypt and we will emerge from this pandemic a different people too.

We are practicing our faith differently. At a time when we have not been gathering for worship as we used to means that feeding one's faith is not as easy as simply showing up to worship.

This pandemic has challenged us to find new ways to deepen our discipleship and our relationship to God in Christ Jesus. Many pastoral leaders have done their best to provide online devotions, Bible studies, emails of encouragement, phone call prayers, and more.

In addition, I see the need for congregation members to take a new kind of initiative. For some, it may be more difficult to turn on the computer than get in the car to go to church. It may be more difficult to pray at home, than in the gathered assembly. Personal devotions depend on a person doing them. Online Bible studies are helpful only if one participates. Our rhythms are off. The regular habits of faith have been disrupted.

By the time this pandemic is over, new patterns and practices will emerge, new insights will give greater clarity, and who we are as Lutheran Christians in the Northern Great Lakes Synod will look and feel differently than it does now.

- The Israelites were closer to God when they were in the wilderness - intimately dependent on God in a whole new way.

In wilderness times, that is, in times of fear and uncertainty, we pray all the harder and more frequently. We look for God more fervently. We rely on the presence of Christ walking with us with greater dependence. God is nearer, more palpably present, and this is an unexpected blessing.

As the Israelites travelled in the wilderness, their patience wore thin. They were tired of the journey, tired of Moses, critical of their situation and their leaders. I hope we can travel our wilderness road with a little more grace. 😊

As your leaders consider next steps, please understand that their priority is your health. And their primary challenge is how to nurture your relationship with God in Christ Jesus while observing the best practices for the safety of all.

So, as you travel this wilderness journey, watch out for your friends and neighbors. We don't want to lose anyone along the way. Check in on each other. Pray. Take your own initiative to deepen your discipleship and care for your congregation and community. Your pastor can only do so much.

And just as God led the Israelites through the wilderness, so does God lead you and me. These are trying days that will stretch into months and longer. But God is with you, your congregation, and with the Church that is the body of Christ.

Take heart and do not lose faith...or patience.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Katherine Finegan



Fun and Interesting Classes for Adults Begin via Zoom in September 2020

www.nglsynod.org/lifelong-faith-formation

In these challenging and uncertain times, our Synod is offering online classes this fall and winter. While discussions through computer screens are not ideal, online learning presents an opportunity to connect people from across the synod -- people who share a love of learning and have discovered that adult studies help them to grow in faith. **“Lifelong Faith Formation”** evolved from our Synod’s Lay School for Mission.

Classes will meet weekly for 60 to 90 minutes for four to eight weeks. A complete schedule of classes, times, and dates is available on the synod website along with the registration form. See www.nglsynod.org/lifelong-faith-formation

Classes offered this fall are:

- **Ecclesiastes Bible Study**
with Pastor Tommy Richter of Zion, Manistique
- **“FREEDOM”- A Study in Galatians**
with Reverend Thomas A. Skrenes, Bishop Emeritus
- **Introduction to Biblical Greek**
with Pastor Nicole Hanson-Lynn of Zion/Salem, Ironwood.
- **Bias in our Communities: Addressing Race in Rural America**
with Pastor Christina Forsythe of Porterfield/Beaver.

Classes are FREE. “Greek” requires the purchase of the textbook *A Primer of Biblical Greek* by N. Clayton Croy. Materials are available for optional purchase for “Bias in our Communities.” Students will receive ZOOM links from their instructor.

This new effort is not driven by an end result such as graduation from a program. It is not a certification program to become a Licensed Lay Minister. “Lifelong Faith Formation” is designed for curious adults who want to become better equipped to serve the work of Christ in their congregations.

For more information visit www.nglsynod.org/lifelong-faith-formation or contact Sister Lori Ward at 615-519-1969 or lori.ward@nglsynod.org



Walking Together – Fall of 2020

Delta Conference has scheduled their "Walking Together" event on Thursday evening, October 8th, through ZOOM, 6:00-8:00pm. A ZOOM link will be sent via email to Pastor Tommy who will forward it to our representatives. The programming portion of the meeting will be about 90 minutes. It will include:

Dwelling in the Word—15 minutes

What is the "Year of Discovery?"—30 minutes including small groups

A presentation on the new Lifelong Faith Formation initiative.

Group participation in upcoming Synod-wide worship for Reformation Sunday.

State of the Synod update.

Representatives: Don't forget to contact Pastor Tommy for the link!

Fortune Lake's Fall Fest

We're gearing up for our annual Fall Fest, which begins with a silent auction on September 23 and culminates with a live auction on October 3, all online!

Donations of quilts and fine arts (valued at least at \$50) are **due to Fortune Lake by September 1** with a completed submission form, which can be found on the website.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF KITS

Below is a brief description for Quilts & Kits needed for Lutheran World Relief. If you aren't part of Zion's Quilters or a member of Circle but would like to help, please read on. Your willingness to help will be greatly appreciated here at Zion and wherever a need exists.

Quilts--Imagine the comfort that comes with a hug when someone is in a time of deepest need. The simple combination of fabric & thread reach those with some of the greatest needs. Most often LWR Quilts are used to shield against the cold and rain, but they are also useful as simple tents, floor coverings or a wrap to carry a baby on his mothers back.

School Kits

The following items are included in each school kit:

4 70 pg. notebooks; no loose-leaf paper

5 ball point pens secured with a rubber band

5 unsharpened #2 pencils secured with a rubber band

1 box of 16 or 24 crayons

1 30cm ruler or one with centimeters on one side and inches on the other

1 pencil sharpener

1 pair blunt scissors

All items are packed in a drawstring backpack-style bag, approx. 14" x 17", with shoulder straps.

Personal Care Kits

The following items are included in each personal care kit:

1 bath size towel, dark color

2 bath size bars of soap, in original wrapper

1 adult size toothbrush in original package

1 sturdy comb remove packaging

1 metal nail clippers remove packaging

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Musician: Linda Levin

Choir Director: Rebecca Peterson

Sunday School Coordinator: Sheila Clark

Custodian: Pat Toennesen

Congregation Council:

Rick Pink, President

Cathy Knudson, Vice President

Kay MacGregor, Secretary

Marie Bellville, Treasurer

Cyndee Miske, Financial Secretary

John Barry

Jo-Nell Berger

Naomi Fletcher

Linda Levin

Kathy McDonough

Donna Mott

Teddy Nelson

Cindy Olli

Jim Russey



A congregation of the Northern Great Lakes Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.