

St. Luke Lutheran Church

October Volume 2020 Issue 10

Pastor's Corner

There's something truly beautiful about being able to gather together and worship God in the midst of his creation. The blending of birds chirping and subtle breezes filled with God's word and our prayers is quite unique and new and yet so powerful. We might not have imagined just a few months ago that this would be our path right now and yet, in a way, what an unexpectedly meaningful joy it has been to worship in this way and be reminded of God's presence through this all.

I see our gathering for worship outdoors, online and over the phone as continuing a new theme for our time I am calling "Ministry unleashed." Again and again, as we navigate these times of Covid-19, we see changes and adjustments being made all around us. Some of these affect us directly more than others, but through it all the world is a different place today than even just earlier this year. In like manner, our church continues to explore how we can be faithful and safe and yet bold in our calling to ministry. We're continually thinking outside the box and seizing opportunities to grow in our faithful outreach and proclamation. Some of these adjustments haven't admittedly been the easiest, but with them has come new blessings and lives reached in Christ.

I've had quite a few conversations recently with folks asking about what our "forecast," so to speak, looks like for the near future for our church's ministry. When will we be able to safely go inside? How will we continue to expand our ministry online? When will we be able to add back and add new ministry areas into our work as church together? In truth, our most faithful reply is that it is God who knows these answers and it will be our ongoing call to discern them together prayerfully from God.

On the other side of the coin, as we continue to look for ways to move forward together, we must also carefully consider what is safe and what is in the best interest and care of one another. To the best of my knowledge we've not had a positive Covid test from among our congregation. We want to do our best to keep it that way - for the well being of one another and for the well being of everyone we encounter in each of our lives. We also don't want to invite

unnecessary risk. The result, therefore, will be a carefully measured approach for how we continue to navigate from here.

As the wise Redge Mays is often reminding me, "Rome wasn't built in a day." He is right. The Roman Empire was an incredible empire in human history whose influence and power spanned over a millennium - but it didn't get there in a day. Our journey through Covid times together will require continued adjustments and change and will invite us to be more patient, at times, that we might would like to be. This said, may our great reflection - some day down the road - be that while this time wasn't easy, we continued to seek God's guidance throughout and with God we persevered through it.

Let's keep our focus on that hope, found in Christ, that God will continue to lead us onward. May we seek His wisdom and peace and trust that through this all, God's faithfulness is always with us.

**In Christ,
Pastor Andrew**



OCTOBER

October 1st Courtney Bowman
October 1st Erica Sprinkle
October 15th Abbie Bowman
October 15th Ansley Pierce
October 19th Nathan Robinson
October 21st Betty Pennell
October 22nd Tom Pennell
October 24th Campbell Pierce
October 26th Willie Dean Bentley
October 29th Butch Goble Jr.

Dear St. Luke,

Sometimes, when I receive a call from the church's phone tree, I don't always get everything from the message. I guess I just miss parts or I wish there was a way I could listen to the message again. Does such a possibility exist?

Thank you,
Pete D. Messedge

Dear Pete,

Thank you for your note and I have great news for you. As a matter of fact there is a very simple way you can repeat the most recent phone tree message and listen to it again anytime. All it takes is a simple phone call.

When there is a message to be shared, the phone tree calls you from this phone number: (405) 548-2251. If you would like to listen to the most recent message, all you have to do is call back that same number (405) 548-2251 from your same phone and it will play the most recent sent out message. It will, admittedly, be a long distance call to Oklahoma, where our call service is based, but very few of us pay any charges for long distance any more.

Feel free to try this out. If you should feel it helpful to receive again the most recent message, gladly listen again with just a simple returned phone call! Thank you again Pete for your question and I imagine you've helped many in asking your great question!

In Christ,
St. Luke

"O Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

-LBW 317

The Church has left the building.....

I first encountered this prayer in church and it seemed one of Pastor Phil Thorsen's favorite. In my mind, I thought it was just a prayer he had come up with and loved to pray as a way of reminding us that we were to be disciples of Jesus, not of an organized religion or even "christianity" persa.

The Church has left the building.....

I would continue to encounter and become more familiar with this prayer as I would start seminary. It would remind me of home of my church up the road and it would become a prayer that I felt captured the unique way I found God calling me to walk this path in school towards ordained ministry. It has been a while since I have heard it, or thought about it, much less prayed it!

The Church has left the building.....

As I was walking through our church today I found my mind wandering back to those years before when I walked these halls as they were full of life and voices and noises of the Body Of Christ in joyous-human-preparation for worshipping the God we knew and loved and knew, loved us. I couldn't help but feel the emptiness and long for those days. A longing I think we might find a kindredness in the portion of Israel experienced to a degree while in exile; crying out to God, "How Long O God? HOW LONG?" We are longing and we do lament!

The Church has left the building.....

But as I walked in the silence of the emptiness I realized the peace was the same. The hope was the same and the gratitude was as well. And this prayer came back to me. To fully recall it I went into the sanctuary, sat in a pew and opened up the LBW to p.317 and read this prayer. It fits so well our current times.

The Church has left the building.....

Rest assured beloved St Luke we do not walk this prayer in the shadow of Covid or loss or separation and longing to return. We also walk it in our internship with the joy and newness there. We walk it in reconnection and new of the porch visits. We walk it in the inbetween of joyous worship and daily bread. We live this in the moment by moment abiding Spirit sustained faith we have in Christ Jesus.

The Church has left the building.....

I'll admit, this is NOT the internship I expected. This is not what I envisioned. But it is the first petition of this prayer. **"O Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown."** We are living this reality together.

The Church has left the building.....

And with such thanks and praise I can declare God is, granting the second petition in and through the Body of Christ expressed here in St Luke Lutheran **Giving us faith, being our faith, to go out, with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that God's hand is leading us, and God's love is supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.** knowing that we do NOT go alone. That it is Christ, that goes behind, with, and in front of us!

The Church has left the building.....

These are unprecedented times beloved of God but rejoice, we are not alone and God is far from finished, with us or this World. So let us take heart that in the new, in the fear, in the uncertainty we worship a God of resurrection, a God of new life, the eternal God who loved us so much God would willingly share the very image of God with us, and give Jesus, the only Son, for us ALL. The God who is love. God of eternity. The one who's promises are secure and we to Him; for all time, to the end of the age! Amen

YES, The Church has left the building.....BECAUSE, WE ARE THE CHURCH! WE ARE, THE BODY OF CHRIST JESUS; ALLELUIA!!



October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 <i>Eighteenth Sunday of Pentecost</i> Outdoor Morning Worship	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 <i>Nineteenth Sunday of Pentecost</i> Outdoor Morning Worship	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 <i>Twentieth Sunday of Pentecost</i> Outdoor Morning Worship	19 <i>Newsletter Week: Articles Due by Noon</i>	20	21	22	23	24
25 <i>Reformation Sunday</i> Outdoor Morning Worship	26	27	28	29	30	31

Please remember that Sunday Morning Outdoor Worship times are subject to change. You will be notified by the St. Luke Phone Tree on Saturday for the time of worship that next morning.



We are people of God, redeemed by Christ, and called into fellowship by the Holy Spirit. Knowing our Lord's definition of disciples as those who take up their crosses daily to follow him and responding to His command to go and make disciples of all nations. We, the members of St. Luke Lutheran Church of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, celebrate life in Christ and claim a servant style of ministry to our congregation, community and world.



HE HAS MADE EVERYTHING BEAUTIFUL IN ITS TIME. HE HAS ALSO SET ETERNITY IN THE HUMAN HEART; YET NO ONE CAN FATHOM WHAT GOD HAS DONE FROM BEGINNING TO END.

Ecclesiastes 3:11

