

APRIL 8, 2020

EKKLESIA



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

You are
witnesses
to these
things.

Luke 24:48



HOLY WEEK
SERVICES

Maundy Thursday	4 pm
Good Friday	12 pm
Good Friday Gospel Reading	7 pm
Easter Sunday	9 am

BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

April 12

Brian Hayden
Patrick Stafford
Amanda Wilkinson

April 13

Megan Obernesser
Alison Russo

April 14

Andy Ballas
Bob Haberacker
Brett Mahon
Monica Ramirez
Jeanne Smith

April 15

Jennifer John
Clint Jolly
Tate Nash
Mary Phillips
Alizabeth Schwartz
Emily Stokes

April 16

Janet Hammond
Amanda King-Ndaya
Robert Wilkerson

April 17

Rosemary Anderson
Jona Christensen
Nancy Loy
Andrea Nyquist
Mary Palmen
Flo Pritz
Carol Schlater
Joe Stevens

April 18

Rob Eggum
Mary Frohs
Stephen Gagnon
Terra Totten

April 13

Pete Bredlau & Margie Sisson - 7 years

April 16

Darlene & Jerry Edwards - 37 years
Rick & Donna Flores - 4 years

April 17

Woody & Kellee Briggs - 14 years
Don & Judy Mau - 55 years

*Happy birthday to
Flo Pritz
who will be 94 on April 17.
Congratulations!*



Congratulations

to Jaimie Dillon and Doug Maltese
on the birth of their son,
Greyson Scott.
Proud great-grandmother is Trudy Hill.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep these members of First Lutheran, their family and friends, in your prayers this week.

Cliff Allen	Hannah & Jeremiah
Cheri Anderson	Miller
Wanda Anderson	Debra Mills
Joyce Arneson	Laurance Moe
Dean Arnold	Mark Mueller
Felicia Arnold	Patrick Murphy
Jaelyn Arnold	Don Nelson
Bill	Rhea Nordberg
Adam & Melinda Boehm	Sam Norton
Jerry Brunet	John Ordahl
Andrea Bullock	Craig Parlet
Maureen Collier	Ric & Bev Pilger
Leslie Crowley	Dot Random
Sharon deHala	Don Reed
Julian Denny	Don Reichert
Amy Fodor	The David Reid Family
Andy Fodor	Ethel Riegel
Carol Foltz	Aaron Rindahl
Michael Foret	David & Colleen Rose
Steve Gaspard	Louis Rosini
Andy Grasmick	Sylvia Sandner
Lee Gross	Roger Schomber
Eleanor Hjelmstad	Ron Scott
Pastor Joshua Hansen	Martin & Esther Simon
Jon Haring	Cathy Stanley
Jutta Heberer	Lori Stevens
Beverly Hodges	Russ Stott
Casey Jacobs	Aaron Thorson
Terry James	Tracey Tinsley
Linda Johnson	Jim Underwood
Josh Jones	Verdawna & Jeff
Diana Keys	Christine Welch
The Kruse Family	Wayne Wemberly
Jesse Lawrence & Family	Scott Wilkinson
Christ M.	Greg & Carolyn Young
Jay McCoy	Nick Zuardo & Family
Teresa Meyer	
Brandon Miller & Family	

Our condolences and prayers surround the family and friends of

LINDA JOHNSON

Tammy, Bob and Ron's mother;
Tom and Melissa's mother-in-law;
Ginger Hipszky's aunt;
grandmother of five;
great-grandmother of four.

Her service will be at a later date here at First Lutheran.

LENTEN SELF-DENIAL OFFERINGS

may be sent directly to the church or given online. These offerings will be given to Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountain STEP program which helps teens in foster care to become responsible and independent young adults with the support of their foster family and LFSRM.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please email any prayer requests to flc@flccs.net.

No one can believe how powerful prayer is and what it can effect, except those who have learned it by experience. Whenever I have prayed earnestly, I have been heard and have obtained more than I prayed for. God sometimes delays, but He always comes.

-Martin Luther



FROM THE PASTOR

It's Holy Week. The holiest week of the Christian year, leading up to our most important day, Easter! But this year we will not gather physically. However, we will have virtual Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter services. I know many of you have been watching our services online. It's so gratifying to know that people are still worshipping during this time. Each of our videos has been viewed over 1,000 times. I'm not sure I get to send those as attendance numbers to our Bishop, but I'm certainly encouraged that the services have been meaningful. The whole staff is involved in some way both onscreen and behind the scenes and deserves our gratitude.

As you prepare to worship this Holy Week, I want to encourage you to be even more intentional about gathering to worship in your home. Choose a time when your entire household can view together. Or better yet, join us on Facebook at 4 pm Thursday, 12 pm Friday and 9 am Sunday where we can view the service together. We will email the link to the service at the beginning of each day, so it's available whenever your family chooses to worship. These are strange times. I pray this is the last time we ever must forgo gathering in person during Holy Week for our lifetimes! But let's make sure to worship and remember the week when Jesus was crucified to save the world from sin, death and the devil.

For those of you who don't have access to the Internet or have been unable to view the services, we've been printing the sermons in the

Ekklesia. I'd also encourage you to get out your Bible and read John 13 on Maundy Thursday, John 18 & 19 on Good Friday and John 20 on Easter Sunday.

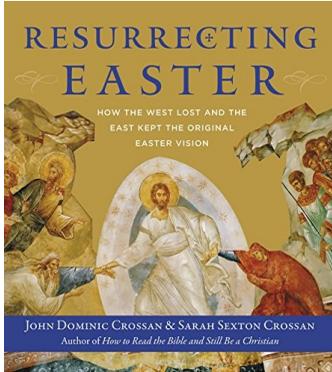
I also want to address the sacrament of Holy Communion. This has been a topic of great debate among pastors and bishops throughout the church, both in our denomination and others. Questions about offering virtual communion, drive in communion and other similar ideas have been discussed at length. The ELCA has offered guidance discouraging virtual communion, but also understanding the pastoral impulse to provide that. My own thinking is that because so much of our congregation is not able to be online, that we would be dividing the body by offering something that not everyone could access equally. Communion is so important to me, it's why we moved to weekly communion in 2018. But I believe at this time we should forgo the sacrament until we can all be together again. I hope you understand. And I hope you hunger for the meal and that day when we can worship in one another's physical presence again!

These are not ideal times, and we're all trying to figure it out as we go. But the truth of the gospel remains. You are loved so much by God that he gave his only son to suffer and die so that sin, death and the devil might be defeated. God gave everything to bring us back to himself and promise us eternal life with Him and one another. May God be with you during this time of separation. May God heal this world and bring all of us back to Himself. May the message of Holy Week penetrate deep in our hearts that God is with us when life is hardest, and no matter how dark it gets, there is always hope.

-Pastor Travis

FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAY ADULT SEMINAR



Resurrecting Easter: How the West Lost and the East Kept the Original Easter Vision

April 19th and 26th

Pre-recorded lectures available on the website

In this uncertain time, we are in need of an "up-rising." This two-part Adult Seminar will focus on the art historical tradition of *Anastasis* paintings and mosaics, which in the Greek literally means "up-rising." *Anastasis* in many traditions is just another title for Resurrection, so for these two weeks we will look at how the Resurrection can be viewed as an uprising. We will question *by whom* are people raised, *with whom* are they raised, *for what* are they raised and *against what* are they raised. The Resurrection has been depicted in art for millennia, but the way that the East and the West have chosen to depict Jesus' Resurrection make some very clear theological points. I invite you to join in this exploration of Eastern and Western art from the 300 C.E. till today and come explore with me the personal importance of Jesus' greatest act, the Resurrection.

-Michaela

THURSDAY EVENING LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

with Michaela Eskew

The Thursday Evening Bible Study is also moving online this month. We will continue our exploration of Hebrews for at least the next two weeks (March 19th and 26th) on the free website meeting platform Zoom. Here are the details to join this Thursday night from 6:30-7:30pm.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/807398900>

Meeting ID: 807 398 900

If you are unable to join us virtually this month but would still like to participate in the study, please email Michaela Eskew (michaela@flccs.net) to receive the week's reflection questions. Here are the dates and scriptures for the Bible Study moving forward, we hope you can join us!

April 9	<i>Maundy Thursday: No Bible Study</i>
April 16	Hebrews 10:19-12:29 The Use of Jewish Scriptures for Examples of Faith
April 23	Hebrews 13:1-25 Perseverance and Practical Exhortations

GOOD FRIDAY SERMON

My God, my God why have you forsaken me?

It's hard to believe that Jesus would say something like this. It's harder to believe that Jesus would experience something like this. But that is exactly the point. It matters what these words mean, and it matters even more who said them.

Jesus experienced something we've all gone through. A dark night of the soul when we felt God's absence. Jesus knows what it is like to cry out to God and hear only silence. Jesus felt in his body the pain of separation from God.

These words, "My God, my God why have you forsaken me?" are human words of real anguish. These are the words we cry out, whether we say them aloud or not, when we are in deep pain. We cry these words when everything falls apart. When our loved ones die or get sick. When our marriages break up. When our family betrays us. When we lose our jobs. When disaster strikes and we cry out to God and for whatever reason can't hear him, can't feel him. Our soul begs the question, has God forgotten us? Has God abandoned us? We wonder, did we do something wrong? Did we offend the Divine? Why, when we need him the most, does he sometimes feel absent?

Jesus knew this experience all too personally, and he who was perfectly obedient to God was not ashamed to ask the question. It matters what these words say, but more than that, it matters who said them. Jesus, who is fully human, and fully God utters these words. Jesus,

the one in whom the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, cries these words. Jesus, the Word made flesh, Immanuel God with us. The one who said, "I and the Father are one, if you have seen me you have seen the Father." This is the one who cries these words, which means – now hear this— God is with us when we feel forsaken by God. We may not feel him, we may not hear him, but He is with us.

God was with Jesus on the cross because God was Jesus on the cross. And that changes everything. God is with us in the worst times of our lives. God is with us in the pit of despair. God is with us when everything falls apart. God is with us when we can't see how things could get better. God is with us. Wherever you are right now, whatever you're going through, God is with you. And if God is with you, there is a tomorrow, there is hope, there is salvation.

God is with you and He will bring you back to life.

-Pastor Travis

This sermon is part of the Good Friday service of the seven words from the cross whose participants are from the Southeast Conference, Rocky Mountain Synod of Colorado.





ZOOM MEETINGS

Middle school is 4:00 pm every

Sunday <https://zoom.us/j/180569595>

High school is 5:00 pm every

Sunday <https://zoom.us/j/856667945>

We hope you are all well and finding success in navigating our “new normal”. It can be so fun to have extra family time, and it can also be a challenge to fill that time. Regarding their Christian education we want to provide consistency and structure for the kids while we all stay home. We also want to continue with the lesson plan that is mapped out for the rest of the school year. To do this we are asking all of you to get your kids to online Sunday school! Simply click on the Zoom link provided for each grade at the appointed time. Then click on the link to open the meeting and follow the prompts. Please plan to attend the class for the first few minutes. You will need to help your kids with meeting etiquette, the mute button, etc. As you will see, every time there is noise on your end the video feed is on you. We recommend using a device with a large screen – we want the kids to see faces! The meeting information for Kindergarten – 5th grade is as follows:

K/1 Tuesday, 7-7:30 pm:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/673429984>

Meeting ID: 673 429 984

4th grade, Sunday, 7 - 7:40 pm:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/488852972>

Meeting ID: 488 852 972

2nd grade, Sunday, 10-10:30 am:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/779314033>

Meeting ID: 779 314 033

5th grade, Thursday, 2-2:30 pm:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/366844514>

Meeting ID: 366 844 514

3rd grade, Wednesday, 7-7:30pm:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/726401318>

Meeting ID: 726 401 318

These classes will be hosted by your child’s Sunday school teachers, Pastor Travis, Pastor Carrie and Shelly. We are hoping kids will stay connected to each other, their teachers and First Lutheran.

WORSHIP IN TIME OF PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS

from the Worship team of the office of the Presiding Bishop ELCA.

“... This disruption also gives us the time and space to examine our understanding of and practices around Holy Communion. Some will remember times when communion was celebrated once a month. Now we have done such a good job of encouraging our people to receive the sacrament more frequently that many, if not most, of our congregations have weekly communion! Of course, the pandemic-forced physical distancing has interrupted this practice. But it hasn't separated us from the love of God in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:39). We don't know how long this pandemic will last, but it won't last forever. Fasting from Holy Communion for a time might be a good discipline. This absence makes God's presence more profound. During this limited fast we might become more aware of God's presence around us and in creation in ways that we have never noticed before. Even in times when a community cannot gather to share the sacrament, Jesus shows up, and we are still part of the body of Christ.

“The Use of the Means of Communion takes place in We recommend that we do virtual communion, that ops use this time as a teacheran understanding of the make use of the Service of Prayer, Evening Prayer, sive Prayer. Let us spend for each other, and contact email or social media.



Grace” reminds us that Holy the assembly (Principle 39). not urge people to employ deacons, pastors, and bishing moment about the Lu-Word of God, and that we the Word and Morning Night Prayer and Respon-time in scripture study, pray others regularly by phone,

Above all, let us remember to be gentle with one another in this time. We've never been here before. We are all trying to do our best to be faithful and loving in this time of COVID-19. We trust that the presence of Christ goes before us and behind us, around us and within us. In the words of Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton's message: “Respect the disease. Do not take unnecessary risks. Provide for the spiritual and physical needs of the neighbor. Make use of medical aid. Care for one another, especially the most vulnerable.”

Further questions may be directed to the Worship team of the Office of the Presiding Bishop at 800-6383522, ext. 2590, or worship@elca.org.

LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICES ROCKY MOUNTAINS (LFSRM)

Please see the note below from Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains (LFSRM) and how they continue to care for their clients during this time of COVID-19 and how you can help:

For our REFUGEES who may be overwhelmed by these changes or are recently underemployed in the new workplace, **WE ARE THERE** to provide them with emergency assistance, housing support, and employment services.

For our FOSTER CARE FAMILIES who are at home with children unable to attend school and running low on resources, **WE ARE** offering support through continued case management services and providing resources for needed supplies.

For our SAFECARE AND RESPITE CARE FAMILIES, who are struggling with job losses, food scarcity, and anxious households, **WE ARE** offering support through continued case management, activity and food baskets, and regular communication.

For quarantined individuals in our communities who reside outside of Colorado but who must remain here during quarantine for a period of time and a second group of Colorado residents returning home from a cruise ship, **WE ARE THERE offering** case management and help with food/medicine delivery, understanding quarantine requirements, and in some cases simply lending an understanding ear and reassuring voice to people experiencing a wide spectrum of emotions.

LFSRM strives to maintain a close relationship between the agency and our church partners. At this time, we hope you will continue supporting ministry, both inside and outside the church walls. We encourage you to continue to tithe to your local congregations, and if you have the ability to go beyond, we ask that you give to the LFSRM Emergency Client Support Fund so that we can continue to serve the vulnerable in our community during this crisis. Stand with us as we stand with our clients. Donate today to the [LFSRM Emergency Client Support Fund](#) to help us ensure the most vulnerable in our communities have the resources and services they need to get through this trying time.

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR OFFERINGS

Suspending worship might threaten the financial well-being of the congregation. We still have a large staff to pay as well as other bills. We want to continue to support those agencies that help those hardest hit during times like this. Please continue to support this ministry with your offerings.

When you receive envelopes in the mail you'll notice a larger white envelope. That is a postage paid envelope you can use to mail in your offering. We also have the ability to receive offerings online at www.flccs.net. Just click on the "GIVE" tab and then "MAKE A DONATION" and follow those instructions. You can even set it up to draft automatically each month, which would really help the church during this time. Thank you for your faithfulness!

MAUNDY THURSDAY 2020

John 13: 1-35

*Just as I am, Thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down;
Now, to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

As Jesus gathered with his disciples around the table on this night before his betrayal, he wanted his disciples to know that he loved them, and that they should love others. He not only spoke words of love but had actions that went with his words. He washed their feet, he shared a meal with them, and he reassured them in their discipleship with a new commandment, “that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

When Jesus tells them to love as I have loved, he ups the game. This is not just any love, not just being nice to one another, this is a love that means compassion, mercy, and plenty of hard work. As we see in today’s gospel, Jesus’ love is active in service and, ultimately, sacrifice. All we need is love, but to love as Jesus loves is no easy thing.

Love is woven through this text; love unto death is what carries us through these days heading towards the cross. There is a divine “love that will not let *me* go,” let *you* go, or anyone else go, not even an enemy.

I can imagine that when the disciples joined Jesus this night, they knew the gathering at the table the would be different. I wonder if they were filled with trepidation going in, wondering what they would experience together, wondering how the evening was going to progress, certainly wondering who it was that would betray Jesus, and wondering what all of this would mean for them. Jesus reassured them that he would always be with them, but in a night that they already knew would bring betrayal they had to wonder what exactly that meant.

And so as humanity did its worst, Jesus gave them his very best. He offered in this night where he was betrayed his humble service and his love; he commanded us to follow him even when things seem that they are at their worst. In the darkness of this night, we hold onto the hope that brings us to the promise of the Resurrection.

*Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt;
Fightings within, and fears without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

As Jesus sat with his disciples, knowing that one would betray him, he did what so many of us would not be able to do. He got up from the table, not to run in fear or to hide from the one that would betray him, but he proceeded to wash his disciples’ feet. It did not go without some protest, but Jesus told them, “unless I wash you, you have no share with me.” He took this time to teach them what it was to live in humble service, not just to speak of what it would look like to be a disciple, but the actions that accompany our words. Jesus showed them what it means for no one to be greater than another. To allow Jesus to cleanse our feet is to remove all that prevents us from using our feet to follow him, to scrub away our insecurities, to wash away our weariness, to buff off our bitterness.

And then our feet are refreshed to do what feet in the scripture, in both the Old and the New Testaments, were meant to do. Follow God. Jesus washed their feet in love, feet that had followed him, that had taken them all over to share his message and now feet that were cleaned by Jesus so he could remain a part of them as all of these feet would next journey to the foot of the cross.

*Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

The command to serve one another by washing each other's feet and to love one another should not be read as duties and certainly not as burdens so much as gifts. In this time

of the coronavirus pandemic, where we are separated from our loved ones, from the communities that we engage in everyday, it could be even more of a struggle to find way to live in humble service, though we have also seen days that allow us to reach out (from a distance) and serve, leaving packages on porches, putting teddy bears and hearts in our windows, calling and checking on neighbors and friends. And today especially as we talk about humble service, let's remember those who are serving in ways that often put them frighteningly close to places the virus lurks. We have those who are still working in service industries and those who are working as first responders and in the medical field. I pray for them each day. As I've read this text so many times in the last week or so, I can't help but picture those in the hospital who are literally washing their patients in humble service, that they are caregiver, servant, and the hands and feet of God in action. Let us all find ways to be God's hands and feet in this time and in all times.

Jesus knew that he would be betrayed, both that night and over and again in the sinfulness of the world. Yet on that night he washed everyone's feet, those who would follow him and the one who would betray him. Even in our own betrayal to follow the command of Jesus, to follow him in humble service and love to all, he still stands waiting for us with a basin of water and a towel, ready to serve us with love. We might crucify him by denying him with our loveless actions, but Jesus keeps washing us and makes us whole again. His care for us won't go away. His love for us can't be killed. Jesus doesn't need us to be perfect, to be clean for him to love us. That's good news. He loves us despite us, despite what we have left done and undone. That's love. Not that we loved God but that God loved us first with a love that will never let us go.

*Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!*

-Pastor Carrie

MOSAIC NEEDS YOUR HELP

Things are changing rapidly and we are doing everything we can to keep the people we serve and their caregivers safe from COVID-19. **Our host home families are in need of facemasks.**

This is an immediate need and we are calling on the community in a way we have not done so in years due to the pandemic affecting our community and country. Our hope is that some of the amazing people at First Lutheran might be willing to take this on and help. We are looking for several of the congregations we work with to commit to producing a certain number of facemasks based on capacity.

Overall, we hope to secure 400 fabric facemasks within the next 1-2 weeks. No **one** person can meet this need, so we ask First Lutheran to be a crucial part of making this happen by **considering a commitment to produce 50 masks.**

Like many congregations, I'm sure you have a quilting and/or women's group. Would you be willing to send this request out not only as a general call for assistance to the congregation, but to those groups specifically as well?

We are looking for adult size masks **without** a wire nose piece so that they will be easy to launder regularly. Here is a link to mask patterns we are using across the country:

Sweet Red Poppy (<http://ow.ly/zSQp3oqrEeq>).

I am the point of contact for this project and will coordinate pick-ups/drop-offs of completed masks. My cellphone number is (719) 377-2087 or you can email me at emily.plotkin@mosaicinfo.org.

You may also contact Marcia Foret at marcia@flccs.net if you would like to make masks or have some that you have made to donate.

God bless, and thank you for any help you can provide.

-Emily Plotkin, Mosaic





PALM SUNDAY (online)

Matthew 21:1-17

It's a bit strange to read a story today that involves a large crowd. I wish we could celebrate Palm Sunday with a large crowd this morning, all waving palm branches and shouting, "Hosanna in the Highest!" But we shout from our homes today, remembering that day when Jesus came to the center of Jerusalem.

In some sense, this is political theater. Jesus carefully plans his entrance. He carefully thinks about the optics, about what he wants people to understand as he makes his way to Jerusalem. He tells his disciples to get a donkey, knowing full well the prophecy of Zechariah that the Messiah would come to town riding on a donkey. With this action, Jesus accepts the mantle of Messiah, he wants everyone to know that he is the promised one. He chooses to fulfill the prophecy of Zechariah, to reveal what kind of Messiah he will be. He is not coming to be a warrior. If that were the case, he'd charge into town on a horse, an animal of war in those days. He comes instead to be a Prince of peace, riding an animal that symbolized his intention to bring peace not war. The people respond accordingly, laying out their version of the red carpet, branches cut from nearby trees and shouting, "Hosanna", a word of praise that literally means "Save us!"

They speak a truth greater than their commitment. That Jesus is the Son of David, that he comes in the name of the Lord. But what kind of Messiah will Jesus be? His next actions reveal

exactly his intentions and it's not what people expect, and it's not what most people wanted. He rides up to the temple, the religious, political and economic center of the city of the entire nation. People came from all over the world to make their sacrifices at the temple. They came with foreign currency that needed to be exchanged, so they could buy the animals required for the sacrifices. So, the temple became not just a place to meet with God, but it became a place for people to make money. To make a profit on the exchange rates and to mark up the price of doves and sheep and oxen.

Jesus enters this marketplace and becomes angry. And get this, he shuts down the temple and sends everyone home. Sound familiar? Jesus enters a bustling temple, filled with the noise of animals for sale and merchants at their money tables and single handedly, as the one who comes in the Name of the Lord, and amidst shouts of "Hosanna," He. Shuts. It. Down.

Imagine the noise and chaos as Jesus forcibly removes everyone from the crowded square. And then imagine the quiet that would have descended upon the temple, the strange new silence that replaced the departing crowds. Jesus says that his Father's house is meant to be a place of prayer and he has now made it suitable for people to meet with God. But perhaps the most important detail of this story is what happens next. Once the economy is shut down, those who had been drowned out by its noise, those who had been overlooked and ignored begin pouring into the temple. The blind and the lame come to Jesus to be healed, in the temple, a place where they would have been barred. And the children come too, singing praise of Jesus, "Hosanna to the Son of David." Out of the mouths of babes the truth is proclaimed.

This is the kind of Messiah Jesus will be. The kind that quiets the noise so that people can pray. The kind that cares for the most vulnerable in our world. The kind that welcomes the ones we so easily ignore. Shutting it down to care for the vulnerable, to give attention to children, to make room for prayer. Sound familiar?

We've shut down our economy and the bulk of our lives for some similar reasons. This shutdown is aimed to protect the most vulnerable among us, to give our health care system a fighting chance at saving those who will be most hurt by this virus. It's a very Christian thing the world is doing, making space for the most vulnerable to be seen and cared for. Our discipline in maintaining social distance is a way of following Jesus this season to care for those he wants us to care about most: the elderly, the sick, those most at risk.

I think this shutdown, like the shutdown of the temple, is also an opportunity for all of us to return to what's most important in this life.

The other night, our Internet went out. All my children were in bed and I took a step outside. I couldn't believe how quiet it was. I hadn't realized how much noise the screens in my house make. I felt the silence deeply in those moments. I told my wife it was like a time machine took me back to my childhood, before cell phones and the Internet, when things seemed simpler.

The entire shutdown has pushed me to focus on what's most important. I'm spending a lot more time with my children and my wife. Our whole family went on a walk the other night and it was so simple and satisfying. I took a step outside when my Internet went out and devoid of all the distractions, I began to think about those most

hurt by this virus. One of our members is in the hospital right now and is intubated because of pneumonia. We don't know if she has Covid 19 or something else but what really breaks my heart is that her husband can't be with her. He sounds strong on the phone when I talk to him, but I hear the sadness in his voice, the helplessness. God brought him to mind in the quiet and I prayed for him. I pray for those who have lost loved ones and can't have funerals; they can't even receive the hugs of support and love from friends. I pray for those families who have lost jobs because of this shutdown and aren't sure their businesses will survive. My own brother owns a coffee shop in Salt Lake City, and he has had to shut it down. I pray for him and his family. The quiet moves me to pray for those who are hurting, for those who are fearful, for those we may not see otherwise. This virus reveals our frailty, reveals to us what really matters in this life. What matters are the vulnerable, our loved ones and our faith.

We shout Hosanna today or maybe we whisper it with all our hearts. Save us please, Jesus. Save the vulnerable among us. Save our families. Quiet our hearts and teach us to pray. Because in the end, when everything else is taken from us, we will still have Jesus. And he will be our Prince of Peace, our prophet of prayer, the savior that we need. Hosanna. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna.

-Pastor Travis



FINANCIAL UPDATE

We'll be monitoring our finances closely during this time of pandemic. Of course, our hope is to preserve the jobs of our full staff both for their sake and for our ministry. Council will meet to look at options for persevering during this difficult time. If you are able, please send in your contributions via mail or digitally.

Year to date Budget through April 7: \$539,857.00
Year to date Offerings through April 7: \$518,271.00
Amount behind for the year: \$21,585.00

CANCELLED EVENTS

- The **Women's Event** will not be held this year.
- We will not be baking **turkeys** for the Soup Kitchen at this time due to the virus. Marcia will keep you informed when we will start up again!
- Due the Coronavirus First Lutheran Church will not be making **Easter Baskets** for the Department of Human Services this year. We thank you for all of your donations that we will keep on hand for next year.
- We will not be holding services for the **Garden of Gods Nursing Home** until August due to the Coronavirus.
- The **theatre group** outing for May has been cancelled.

ONLINE WORSHIP TOGETHER!

We discovered a new way to worship together using Facebook Premier. Each Sunday we will start the online worship video at 9:00 am on Facebook. This way we can enjoy it at the same time and the pastors can be in the chatroom with you to check in and share reflections. The video will also continue to be emailed to you at 7:00 am on Sundays for you to use at your convenience and also posted on the church website. But if you're a Facebook user and want to join us at 9:00 am, you're invited!

APRIL CHURCH UPDATE

Following the order of our Governor and recommendation of our Bishop, we will not hold worship services in the Sanctuary for the month of April. Our Bishop continues to recommend remaining closed through the middle of May, and that may indeed be what we do, but we're making decisions on a monthly basis. Please continue to join us for worship online. Every Sunday we email out our services at 7 am. If you haven't been receiving them, please email the church at flc@flccs.net to add your email to our distribution list. We also watch worship together on **Facebook** through Facebook Premier at 9 am on Sundays- which is a nice way for us to interact in the chatroom during worship. You can find all of our worship services on our YouTube page by searching for First Lutheran Church Colorado Springs. We are thankful for your faithfulness during this time and look forward to the day we worship together in person again!

A PLACE TO TALK

Dr. David Fenell, Jan Anderson, N.P and Pastor Hank Maertens are inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Time: Apr 9, 2020 10:00 am Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Thursday

Apr 9, 2020, 10 am

Apr 16, 2020, 10 am

Apr 23, 2020, 10 am

Apr 30, 2020, 10 am

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/209040388>

Meeting ID: 209 040 388

COLLEGE-STUDENT ZOOM CONNECTION

Attention college-age students! We miss you and want to provide a space for us to chat! The world is drastically different than it was a month ago. We have had to adapt to new ways of connecting and learning that many of us never would have chosen. As college students it may feel even more overwhelming if you are far away from home and now separated from your peers and classmates, not to mention the new challenge of online classes. We want you to know that we haven't forgotten you and we want to encourage you in this new (but hopefully, temporary) way of living.

If you feel comfortable, we would love to have your names and emails so we can keep in touch. If a lot of you are interested, we could even have a group Zoom hangout. Email Michaela Eskew, our Minister of Faith Formation, at michaela@fllcs.net to be included in our new college email chain.

FROM JAN ANDERSON THE "ASK A NURSE/NP"

Pastor Maertens had excellent suggestions about "Keeping your sanity during the coronavirus" in his column in the March 18 Ekklesia! It is important to especially underscore his suggestion to "take your prescriptions!" It is easy to forget the time and/or the date in times of stress and change of schedules like those of the past few weeks. Using a calendar or paper to keep track of each time a medication is taken is helpful. In addition, he reminded us that we should "eat fruits and vegetables!" That means reduce sugar intake! Don't overdose on those chocolate bars we think manages stress! And, if one can't walk 15-20 minutes at a time, walk around the inside of your living space during television commercials or walk in place for even 5 minutes. We are in this together.

**Christ's
Church**
better together

He is
Risen

Matthew 28:6

