



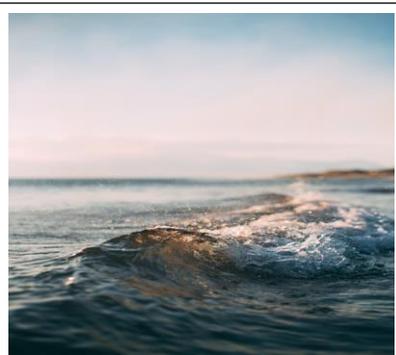
# Epiphany of Christ News – August 2020

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**Pastor Steve Crittenden**

***In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.-----Genesis 1:1-3***



## **A Message from our Bishop Deborah Hutterer**

(condensed for space)

It has been a while since I wrote about in-person gathering for worship. I was waiting for certainty before I grabbed my pen. I was waiting for clarity from the federal government, the CDC, from health scientists, and from our state health departments and governors. I waited for consensus amongst the citizens of our nation. I turned to the books of wisdom in the Old Testament, hoping for a revelation. ----- I am still waiting.

In March, we thought this wait would be a few weeks. Easter filled us with the hope of gathering in-person, which was unfulfilled. Yet, Easter reminded us of the greater and truer hope: a risen Christ.

And so we continue, each month, to have our hopes of in-person gathering unfulfilled. We do, however, continue each month, to find greater hopes, other examples of God’s love, and to come up with yet more ways to be the body of Christ in a time of great need.

For months now, we’ve also shared hopeful stories of our ministries in action, one story after another, day after day. I am continuously overwhelmed with gratitude at what I see at play in the Grand Canyon Synod. I am blessed to have a unique view of God’s servants going forth boldly and courageously doing God’s work. I await the start of each day to again hear the Good News. Indeed, there is light!

We will joyfully gather again when we have clarity on how coronavirus is spread and how best we can protect ourselves and our neighbors.

I look forward to these coming months with you, as church together we share in God’s abundance.  
----- Rev. Deborah K. Hutterer -----

**We have AC !** There is light at the end of the tunnel – at least cool light in the sanctuary. Thanks to Don Gimpel, volunteer Minister for Maintenance, the air conditioning repair has been completed, and - remarkably - brought in at the \$2,500 repair estimate. A minor miracle  
- Kudos for Don.

**The Church Council has been surprised and pleased with how faithful our church family has been in making donations during this virus crisis. We were truly fearful that we wouldn’t be able to pay our bills. Thank you so very much for your continued support. We have included two more donation envelopes with the hope that we will be able to have in-person services in the near future.**

**Thanks again and God bless!**

**God’s purpose for our church is to invite all to worship and grow through study, fellowship and mission.**



**Surviving Isolation – a piece at a time**

Since the newsletter wanted to know what people are doing during this awful virus time; these are my masterpieces. Which donut would you like? I've already picked the pink one. This puzzle has 300 very tiny pieces.

The other one has 500 tiny pieces. So many pieces are so similar that it is very difficult to do. My wife says that there are 109 pumpkins. This represents many hours of work and fun.  
**Vardon Swenby**

**Scott Aljets' recipe**

**Immune Booster for C-19 Virus:**

Meat, fruit, vegetables and plenty of deep breathing; ..... in all the way and out all the way ... repeat

**Japanese Stew:** 1 lb hamburger browned, 5 medium potatoes peeled and diced, 4 large carrots peeled and sliced, 1/3 cup soy sauce, rice prepared. Put browned hamburger, potatoes and carrots into a stew pot, add just enough water to cover then add soy sauce and stir. Boil 20 minutes and serve over rice. Eat well, stay alive and believe - breathe deep!

**A Prayer During a Time of Pandemic**

**Dear Lord,** we pray that during this pandemic, which has stretched beyond our expectations and imagination, we will be renewed in our commitment to the patience, sacrifice and awareness of the example we set as we continue personal health measures for the sake of our health and the wellness of our neighbors. We pray for quick success as our scientists and laboratories develop vaccines and more effective medications. Grant, O Lord, that all of the health workers caring for those stricken by the virus be kept safe. Strengthen the ill and give comfort to those stressed or grieving loss. Give guidance and strength to our elected leaders.

All this we pray in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

**What Have You Been Doing Lately??**

We'd love to hear how you are surviving this extended period of isolation. If you have a story you'd like to share with your church family, send it to [rhlarsen@msn.com](mailto:rhlarsen@msn.com) and we'll try to put it in the next newsletter.



A special thanks to Kay Johnson, our organist who practiced and played for the on-line services -- even when the sanctuary was 90 degrees plus

**Mission Needs:**

**August:** Genesis - providing services for the homeless

**September:** Lutheran Social Services could use donations for parent/child care programs and the COVID-19 relief fund

**October:** Apache Junction Food Bank