



Epiphany of Christ News - July

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Pastor Steve Crittenden

A Message from the Council

Epiphany of Christ's Faith Family,

In this time of pandemic crisis, we take comfort in Christ's words: "**Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.**" -- John 14:27.

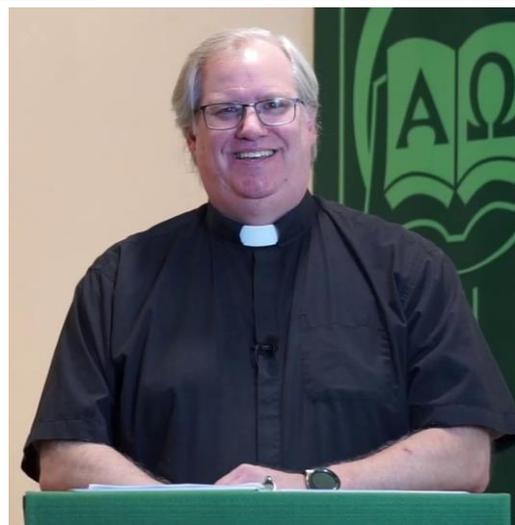
We fervently hope and pray that our winter family members are in states with declining COVID cases. Arizona is not so lucky. Our governor just announced an executive order closing many public spaces during the month of July. His decision is based on the rapidly rising number of cases.

Although this is a matter of real concern, we do, paradoxically, find some small measure of relief in his executive order. How so? We were dreaming that maybe we could return to in-person services sometime in July. Then the sanctuary air conditioning went out! After a pending \$2500 bill and a wait of two or three weeks for repair parts, it became quite clear we weren't going to resume in-person services – certainly not in July! We so miss the comradeship and sense of spiritual well-being found in our faith family. We were just not looking forward to making that sad announcement. Now, fortunately, (and somewhat tongue-in-cheek) we can blame the Governor – at least for July.

Seriously, we're just not sure when we can resume our normal service schedule. We're especially aware that most members of our congregation

are in one of the most endangered cohorts --- folks of a certain age and with underlining health issues. We ask that you pray that our faith family stays healthy and for the early return to normal church life. We'll keep you abreast of any decisions and when we again have AC in the sanctuary.

May the good Lord bless and keep you!



NO BEARD!

Thank You to everyone who participated in the **Razor Fund Raiser**. The lucky couple, Chris and Harold Baker, won and, to Kay's great relief, directed Pastor to shave it all off. (*Where, oh where, hath our Old Testament prophet look-alike gone?*) The fund-raiser gathered a total of \$370 which was donated to **Project Hope**. Our mission projects certainly need our help now more than ever. Our August mission: **Genesis Project**
Sept. mission: **Lutheran Family Services**
Your generosity has always been amazing.

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



Surviving Isolation--what I've been doing

Eileen Larsen: I started this 32,000 stitch cross-stitch pattern when my 10-year-old son was into dragons. Now 38 years later, and thanks to the COVID pandemic, I'm finally finishing it up for my granddaughter, who is also into dragons. Who knew? What held me up is the interminable backstitching used for outlining. I hope to have it finally completed for her 13th birthday in August. I'm so anxious to see everyone again – stay safe.

. In Memoriam

Our church family is further saddened by the death of Bob Holder, husband of our beloved Church Council President Judy. He passed away just 5 days after Judy's death. Please remember the Holder family in your prayers and in your expressions of condolence and sympathy. We were truly blessed by their presence and by their enduring devotion to our congregation.

What are some of the Church Council members doing to keep sane?

Roger Larsen- Interim Council President

What I'm doing: I've now read 28 books and have catalogued my stamp collection. Little did I know that this collection, started when I was 10, has grown to a list 32 pages long. You can tell cabin fever has erupted.

Negatives: I miss seeing everyone, hearing their stories, the services and coffee hour.

Positives: Well, it's nice to have the collection catalogued and even nicer is the fact that my wife and I find lots of things to laugh at every day. Another positive is the weekly Facetime conversations with our granddaughter.

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 and we'll try to put it in the next newsletter.

A special note of appreciation to Pastor Steve for all of his work in mastering - on the run - the electronic delivery of our church services and bible study. Also, he and Kay, our organist, have been sweltering in the 90° plus sanctuary to tape the services. Our Heroes!

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!