

St. John Lutheran Church

St. John Lutheran Church comes together to love God and one another, serve others and share God's word. We do these things by God's Grace that comes through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ

May 2020

FROM PASTOR KEVIN

“The Steadfast Love of the Lord Endures Forever.”

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find us on Facebook
Pastor Kevin Scheuller
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Sunday Morning Worship at
9AM
Sunday school
10:15AM
Choir Practice on Mondays
7PM (Sept-May)

MAY 2020

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Greetings in Christ, dear saints of St. John and Trinity Lutheran Churches! As I was preparing to write this newsletter, I was reminded of the precious promise – more of a refrain, really – that is repeated numerous times in the Old Testament. “The steadfast love of the Lord endures forever.” Throughout this whole COVID-19 pandemic quarantine, God has been faithful, and God’s people at St. John and Trinity have been faithful.

Fortunately, St. John’s was able to apply for and receive assistance from the Federal Government through the PPP (Paycheck Protection Program). Trinity has also applied, and hopefully will get assistance once more funds are made available. In addition to that, through it all, members at both St. John and Trinity have remained faithful in your continued financial support of our ongoing ministry. On behalf of both congregational councils, we cannot thank you enough for your returned steadfast love to God and God’s

people!

Having this time of worshiping apart has been difficult for all congregations of God’s faithful. I am so thankful to hear from so many of you that you appreciate the combined efforts of our musicians, Carol McKinley, Janet Eby, and Ellie Arnett in getting worship videos out to you and that you find them spiritually fulfilling. I am also very thankful to our parish workers, Erin Utsinger and Pat Schroeder for getting my sermon manuscripts out to members with limited or no computer access.

If you are reading this and haven’t been able to either watch the YouTube videos I’ve been producing each week for worship, or if you don’t have computer access and would like to get my sermon manuscripts mailed to you, please contact either Erin, if you’re a member of St. John’s at stjohningomar@swohio.twcbc.com or Pat, if you’re a member of Trinity at trinitylewisburg@gmail.com We don’t want anyone to

miss out on receiving worship materials while we have to be apart. Also, know that you can contact me either at my email: revkev312@gmail.com or on my cellphone by text or voice at 937-287-2742.

Also, as I prepared to write this newsletter, as Bishop Dillahunt observed in a recent e-memo, we find ourselves at a time much like Noah may have felt when sending the dove out of the Ark to determine if it was safe yet to leave the Ark. Bishop Dillahunt and Pastor Bob Abrams were both on a Zoom call for pastors in the synod as we hope to soon see a light at the end of the tunnel of our Ohio’s sheltering in place orders. In that memo, she encouraged congregations and pastors to start planning for safety measures we would employ as we begin gathering for worship again. There is a link in her memo about

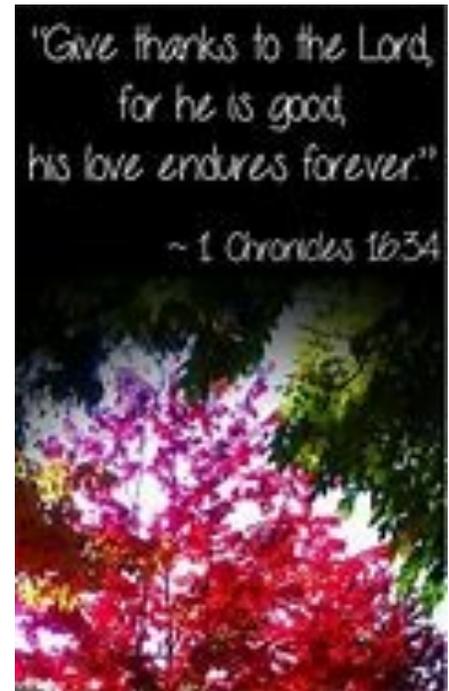
24 questions congregations should be asking themselves as they make those preparations. The council of St. John are in the process of planning to meet (either by videoconferencing or in person) to discuss such plans. Hopefully, later in the month, I will also meet with Trinity to discuss similar plans.

Also, as I prepare this newsletter, Governor DeWine's shelter in place order is still in effect. While some businesses are being allowed to reopen if they comply to safety protocols, groups of ten or more are still discouraged from gathering. Hopefully, if the current transition proves to work

smoothly for businesses, the gatherings of ten or more restrictions will soon lift as the curve of the spread of the virus continues to flatten.

In the meantime, we remain an Easter people! We serve our risen Lord, Jesus Christ who has overcome, and continues to overcome the world. I continue to thank God for calling me to be your pastor "for such a time as this." You have all been so wonderful, patient, and faithful. **"O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever." (1 Chronicles 16:34)**

Your fellow servant of Christ,
Pastor Kevin Scheuller



MEMO FROM BISHOP DILLAHUNT

Dear Church,

Much like in the story of Noah in the 8th chapter of Genesis where he watched and waited and sent out birds to see if the time was right to open the doors to the ark and resettle the earth, we, too find ourselves watching and waiting for the right time to re-open the doors of our church buildings for in person worship. Governor Mike DeWine shared his plan on Monday to begin re-opening the economy of Ohio, for many business sectors the time has come to bring back employees and welcome customers, but for congregations, the dove has

returned. It is not yet time for us to come together physically as the Church. While I, like you, am disappointed that the people of God in Southern Ohio will not be gathering in person to worship, sing hymns and be together in the next few weeks, there is still work to be done.

We must continue to:

1. Share the Gospel through the Word and hymns online, on the phone, in email, in letters and, at a safe distance, in person.
2. Take care of each other and those in need in our communities.

3. Support your congregation through prayers and offerings.
4. Stay hopeful.

Dr. Jim Young Kim, one of the founders of Partners in Health, an international health organization working with several of our states on how to effectively end the pandemic, recently wrote, 'Hope is of little use unless it is accompanied by a bold and vigorous plan.'

Our next steps as the synod and as congregations, is to plan. We don't know exactly when we will be together in

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person, but when it is time we will be ready. Below are links to resources you, your council and other experts in your congregations--especially those in the healthcare industry--can read, discuss and use as a basis for your re-opening plan. Although the three flyers from the Ohio Department of Health are specifically for business sectors that are scheduled to re-open in the first part of May, the flyers contain requirements and best practices we can adopt so that when we do open our doors, our members and guests will feel safe and want to be a part of our worship services and other activities. The other resource looks at 24 things every congregation should consider and address before re-opening.

Manufacturing, Distribution & Construction Operating Requirements

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/Manufacturing-Distribution-Construction.pdf>

Consumer, Retail & Services Operating Requirements

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/Consumer-Retail-Services.pdf>

General Office Environments Operating Requirements

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/General-Office-Environments.pdf>

24 Questions Your Church Should Answer Before People Return

<https://kenbraddy.com/2020/04/18/20-questions-your-church-should-answer-before-people-return/>

Additionally, I ask you to talk with one another, with the church down the street and with our Ecumenical partners, to compare ideas, solutions, obstacles and resources. We are stronger and better together, especially now.

As a synod staff, we have been planning, connecting with many of you and giving thanks for the work you continue to do despite having no time to prepare for this time apart.

We thank you for your faithfulness, for your caring, for your prayers and for your continued mission support, again, despite these unprecedented times.

In Christ,

Bishop Suzanne Darcy Dillahunt



#GIVINGTUESDAYNOW

On Tuesday, May 5, the ELCA will be participating in [#GivingTuesdayNow](#), a global day of giving and unity as an emergency response to COVID-19. You can participate in this movement by sharing God's love any way you can. Whether helping a neighbor, sharing a skill or giving to our congregations or supporting the ELCA's COVID-19 Response

Fund. Mark your calendar and please plan to join us! On Tuesday, May 5, the ELCA will be participating in [#GivingTuesdayNow](#), a global day of giving and unity as an emergency response to COVID-19. You can participate in this movement by sharing God's love any way you can. Whether helping a neighbor, sharing a skill or giving to our congregations



or supporting the ELCA's COVID-19 Response Fund. Mark your calendar and please plan to join us!

PRAY FOR AMERICA: 2020 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

People everywhere are invited to join us on May 7, 2020, for the 69th annual observance of the National Day of Prayer. This year's theme is based on Habakkuk 2:14, which reminds us of this promise, "For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."

Praying Virtually, Yet Together

Each year, people gather across our nation, in over 60,000 local community events, to pray together for America. In 1952, Congress established an annual day of prayer, and in 1988, that law was amended, designating the National Day of Prayer as the first Thursday in May.

This year, in keeping with recommended social distancing measures, prayers will be multiplied and amplified through new and creative approaches including access to digital platforms. National Day of Prayer coordinators will mobilize unified public prayer for America through virtual events.

These virtual observances have the power to become the largest prayer gathering in U.S. history, with millions praying right from their homes!

In addition to the local virtual events being held in communities across our nation, The National Day of Prayer National Observance Broadcast will take place from 8–10 pm ET on May 7. It will be broadcast on

TV (Dish Channels 263 and 8415, Direct TV Channel 369, and Time Warner/Spectrum Channel 389), seen LIVE on Facebook, and carried on radio networks.

If there's ever been a time for united prayer, it's now. "Unprecedented times call for unprecedented prayer!" said Kathy Branzell, National Day of Prayer Task Force President.

Will you join us as we pray for this historic virtual gathering to unleash God's glory across the earth?



FAITH ALONG THE WAY DURING STAY HOME STAY

Have you ever uttered "if we just had more time at home, we could _____." This is not the way any of us imagined that we'd spend more time at home. And for many of us the demands are high, or at least very different than usual. And some of us don't get to be home any more than we ever do. No matter how this stay home, stay safe thing hits your family, we do all share this experience and the opportunity to talk about our faith in the midst of it as we are charged to do in Deuteronomy 6:6-7: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your

soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the way, when you lie down and when you get up."

Here are a few ideas for how we can talk about faith and the ways God is at work in the midst of this stay home, stay safe order:

- Grief—It may seem like a funny thing to think about right now, especially if your family is healthy and well and

no one you know is sick with the virus, but grief is a very real part of this time at home. We are grieving missed events, missed milestones, even missed everyday life experiences. So acknowledge the grief—we are sad, in denial, angry and filled with uncertainty. Talk about the promises of God which we know to be true and unchanging no matter our circumstances. Talk about what comfort God's unchanging nature provides in the midst of grief.

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- **New Roles**—Time at home brings with it new roles and new things to figure out. None of us has ever navigated a pandemic before. Talk about new things that each of you has had to figure out (big or small) during this time. How have these new things made you feel? Consider and talk about how God might be at work in the midst of the newness. What might He be teaching you? How might He be growing you? What opportunities is He giving you? How can you learn to rely on Him more?
- **Cabin Fever**—Being “stuck” at home can feel stressful. Talk about creative ways to use the things in your home that you’ve long forgotten about and

creative ways to get outside while staying safe. Make a stay at home bucket list of all the things you want to do together before the stay home order is up. Talk about all the things in your home that you are thankful for especially during this time. Talk about the blessings God has given you inside and outside to enjoy.

- **Time Together**—Is there such a thing as too much time with our families? That might be debatable depending on your circumstance, but one thing is certain, much time is being spent together. So that requires intentionality about how the time is spent. Be intentional to have family devotions or

family worship that otherwise you can’t seem to find time for. End each day with the Faith5, sharing highs/low, reading Scripture, talking, praying and giving a blessing to each other. Have meals together at the table. Talk about your days or your bigger hopes and dreams. Talk about what God is doing in your heart.

God is at work. Indeed, He never stops working! May we rely on Him more and more each day. And when we feel like we don’t know how to process what’s going on around us, may we always look to Him and His Word and talk about what He’s doing. He is our only sure and certain hope—in pandemic and in health.

GET CONNECTED AT ST. JOHN

Please note that all services and activities are cancelled until further notice.

Worship Services Online: If you don’t have facebook account, you can still view Pastor Kevin’s Sunday services on Youtube, using the link above or on our website. We have a wonderful website where you can watch all previously recorded services along with other important information.

Written Sermon Manuscripts

Sermon manuscripts will be available to read our website. If you would like to receive a written copy in the mail please call the church to be added to the list. Latest updates will appear on our Facebook page and website. Members will also be notified via our One Call system.



[Facebook.com/stjohnlutheraningomar](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnlutheraningomar)



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmTGAtKsNJYg7pV8adPEYqA>



www.stjohnningomar.org

YOUR OFFERING

*Your offering can be mailed directly to the church:
P.O. Box 32
West Alexandria, OH 45381*

or

*Your offering can be mailed directly to: Stephanie Cotterman
102 Brenda Blvd.
West Alexandria, OH 45381*

SUNDAY, MAY 10



Whether you are a birth, adoptive, step, foster, grand, great grand, mentor, friend, sponsor, sports, pet or Godmother, thank you for being there every day with just the love that is needed.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS



Sunday, May 3, 2020 Fourth Sunday of Easter Year A

Christ the shepherd

- First Reading: Acts 2:42-47
- Psalm: Psalm 23
- Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:19-25
- Gospel: John 10:1-1

Sunday, May 10, 2020 Fifth Sunday of Easter Year A

Christ the way, truth, and life

- First Reading: Acts 7:55-60
- Psalm: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
- Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10
- Gospel: John 14:1-14

Sunday, May 17, 2020 Sixth Sunday of Easter Year A

First Reading: Acts 17:22-31

Psalm: Psalm 66:8-20

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:13-22

Gospel: John 14:15-2

Sunday, May 24, 2020 Seventh Sunday of Easter- Year A

First Reading: Acts 1:6-14

Psalm: Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

Second Reading: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-1

Gospel: John 17:1-1

Sunday, May 31, 2020 Day of Pentecost Year A

First Reading: Acts 2:1-21

Psalm: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

Gospel: John 20:19-23

UPDATES FROM LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Preble County Board of DD

Unfortunately, for the safety of our athletes and spectators, The Ohio Special Olympics has issued postponement orders for the May 9, 2020 Track and Field Event until further notice. We will keep you updated as we learn more. For additional information, please call the Preble County Special Olympics Coordinator, Regina Fullmer at (937) 470-3670 or email her at specialolympicspreblecounty@gmail.com.

Hit Foundation

THANK YOU to everyone who has donated meals, money, and time! We are in need additional homemade PRECOOKED or restaurant provided lunches! Breakfast and Dinner have always been covered by volunteers. Typically, clients were able to leave the shelter during the day but due to the Stay-At-Home Order with COVID-19, clients are not able to venture out. If you would like to sign up, please call Ginger at 937-472-0500

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

Mary Buettner
Jan Spitler
Don Degler
Janet Ferguson
Catherine Dafler
Cleo Eby
Reenie Halsey



REMEMBER THESE FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF OUR MEMBERS:

Jackie Metz
Andy Eck
Janet Cornett
Melinda Studebaker
Dean Gray
Beverly Crowell
Judy Moore
Sandy Studebaker
Jane Seim
Chris Hansen
Teddy Baker
Janet Hardin
Jane Peters
Tom Schamel
John Matteucci
Linda Parks
Elizabeth Swingler
Jeanette Perkins
Margaret Gray
Bob Bullock
Cynthia Foster
Eric Walker
Macy Jaeggi
Joe Combs
Sue Miller
Donna Bellar
John Graham
Joe Meadows

AND MISSIONARIES:

Jonathan & Michelle Voge and family