



THE VOICE OF OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Steve Jacobsen - Church Office: 942-3168 / Cell: 217-204-6576

Services: Saturday at 5:30 PM & Sunday at 9 AM

Sunday School: 10:15 A.M.

<http://www.our-redeemer-lutheran-church.org/>

May/June 2020

Thanks to Elena and Katerina and all those who have helped with online service special music.

John 10:7-9 “ Jesus said again, ‘Amen, Amen, I tell you: I am the door for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the door. Whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture.’”

(Evangelical Heritage Version)

I know I’ve shared more than once how much I love that the original “Amen” is kept in the new translation we are using in church, especially when it highlights Jesus’ use of the double “Amen” as in our gospel from May 3rd.

“Amen” is a reassuring word which when used by Jesus as above almost certainly could be translated (as Luther does for its use at the end of the Creed) “This is most certainly true”.

Certainty and reliable truth are hard to find during this spring season. So much has changed and so much is uncertain.

Jesus tells us that only He can provide the certainty that we need for our salvation. That is why, while the world turns to science or medicine or maybe even their favorite politician or celebrity, it is great for us to have celebrated Easter. We know the one who will bring us through these days of distress, and we know that nothing these days bring can change the victory we share.

Christ is Risen! He is risen, indeed, Alleluia!

-In Christ

Pastor Steve

Food Pantry and Summer Lunches We are continuing to serve our area during this crisis time. Helpers who have limited risk factors are encouraged to volunteer for food pantry on May 6 and July 1, and on the week of June 8 for the lunch program (served of our the First Baptist kitchen).

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class has continued to meet using the online tool *Google Meet*. Each Sunday Pastor tries to post an invite both under the video of service on *Youtube* as well as on our *Facebook* page. Those who use that link can join in a video conference. It is also possible to simply join over the phone. Several of our members do that both for church and Bible Study and others who may need to do that are encouraged to call Pastor on his cell above.

Please do join us as we finish our look at Ephesians and help us decide what to study next.

Vacation Bible School

We will have a VBS if possible. It would be a big help to have several people volunteer early so that we can coordinate what we want to be doing. Look for information later in May as to what we may be able to do this year. A sign-up sheet for helpers will be in the church entryway once we are able to make plans. We will also have extra registration forms to share.

Upcoming Youth Events

We need to meet soon so that the title of officer can be officially passed on to a non-senior. (Congratulations Lillie!)

Once we can make plans, we likely will need many others to help with VBS week. We are planning to go to the Cardinals game (September 15 at 6:45 PM verses the Royals). Hopefully games will be played again by then and our tickets will still be valid. If so, Pastor has a ticket for you (and a friend if you like) \$5 each will be asked to get the tickets.

Camp Wartburg (near Waterloo, IL) and **Camp Cilca** (near Springfield) have information available on-line. As of the end of April there are still plans for some offerings based on Government allowances.

MAY WORSHIP PLANS:

- 3rd – The 4th Sunday in Easter (Good Shepherd)
Psalm 23 – “Even Though”
10th – The 5th Sunday in Easter /Mother’s Day
Psalm 146 – “Trust Not In Princes”
17th – The 6th Sunday in Easter (Memorial Day)
Acts 17:16-31 – “Proof Positive”
21st – The Ascension of Our Lord (9 AM)
Ephesians 1:15-23 – “Above Every Name”
24th - The 7th Sunday in Easter
1 Peter 4:12-5:11 – “Trusted, Faithful Creator”
31ST – Pentecost
Acts 2:1-21 – “I will pour out my Spirit”

JUNE WORSHIP PLANS:

- 7th – Holy Trinity Sunday
Matthew 28:16-20 – “Uncertainty to End of Age”
14th – Second Sunday after Pentecost
Matthew 9:35-10:20 – “Let your peace rest on it”
21st – Third Sunday after Pentecost
Matthew 10:5a, 21-33 – “Rather, fear the One”
28th –Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Matthew 10:34-42 – “Peace on Earth?”

Worship Assistants:

Even when church resumes, we will likely be under strict physical distancing guidelines for several months. Therefore we will not be using greeters or ushers as usual, and we will not have the same expectations for acolytes once services resume.

Thanks to Ladies Aid members who prepared wonderful Easter gifts for all of our shut-ins. Hopefully all of them will be delivered before the season of Easter ends.

Ladies Aid

President Sandra Purcell.

In March we hosted the Prayer Breakfast at our church. Since then, as restrictions have been put in place, our local and regional gatherings have been cancelled. The items gathered for the Spring Rally will be distributed once we are able to do so.

The Fall Retreat and other LWML district activities will be scheduled when possible once again. Information will be posted on our *Facebook* page and website when there are updates.

Hebrews 13:8 - Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.



If you haven't yet done so, please consider linking your Kroger discount card or tag number to our church. If you have done so more than 12 months ago, then you may need to re-enroll to support our church. (You used to be able to check the bottom of your receipt, but that has changed.)

Our Redeemer is charity number 10560 in the Kroger Community Awards program. You can register online at www.Kroger.com or by calling 1-866-221-4141.

If you do shopping on Amazon know that you can also donate proceeds from your shopping by using the amazon smile (<https://smile.amazon.com/>) page and setting your app to support our church.

Happy Birthday May:

- 1- Glenda Howland
- 3 Reed Rusten
- 6 Roy Becker
Marty Knight
- 7 Terri White
- 8 Phyllis Darr
- 9 Jody Stegall
- 11 Keeley Varble
- 12 Diana Varble
- 13 Evan Rahe
Leona Freand
- 15 Tony Purcell
- 18 Vicky Vetter
- 21 Mark Childress
- 25 Ben Petri
- 27 John England
Ellen Logsdon
- 30 Jordan Davis
Blake Struble

June:

- 3 Craig Jones
- 4 Martha Bland
- 5 Brett Lehr
- 7 Judy Tepen
- 8 John Quandt
- 11 Austin Rahe
Zach Jones
James Reno
- 12 Butch Purcell
- 15 Richard Snyder
- 18 Cale Kunzeman
Tyler Jones
- 21 Ashli Lee
Kelli Rahe
- 24 Brenda Berry
- 26 Luke Tepen
- 28 Remington Stott

Happy Baptismal Birthday - May:

- 8 Nathan Coonrod
Steve Lee
- 10 Rachel Coonrod
Linda Sullivan
- 11 Ryan Riechmann
- 13 Alfonso Sasieta
- 14 Doris Camerer
James Custer
Leslie Range
- 16 Ryan Reno
Dorothy Ray
Margaret Varble
Jim Jones
Wesley Fanning
- 17 Jody Woods
- 21 Karen Schnelt
Terri White
Diana Steinacher
- 27 Blake Struble
Bree Lyn Davis
- 28 Leigh Ann Henline
Cindy Howard
- 30 Brian White
- 31 Mitchell Flatt
Eric Thaxton
Mable Thuer

June:

- 1 Harry Flowers
Leona Freand
- 3 Glenda Howland
- 6 Taylor Sullivan
- 7 Alexandra Flatt
Rosemary Sexton
- 10 Frank Custer
- 13 Taylor Rusten
Jody Stegall
Alex Baker
- 15 Linda Russell
Reed Rusten
- 16 Byron Berry
- 18 Jordan Davis
John Quandt
- 20 Jessica Jones
- 25 Diana Varble
Joe Terpening

Other Covid updates:

Pastor is adding a *YouTube* service at 9 AM for Ascension Day (May 21). Obviously this, and our other services, are available whenever you can access them. This major festival celebrating an important event in the life of Christ and His Church confessed in the Creeds is not one that we have often celebrated in person, but perhaps this year can give us an opportunity to start.

Communion has been made available to small groups as desired normally from the safety of your own car (so no special disinfecting has been needed). If you are in need of this or other Pastoral care, please call Pastor on his cell (see page 1 of the newsletter).

On the following page is the letter sent by our District Presidents to Governor Pritzker asking him to allow us to move toward more normal church operations.

While elder and council meetings have worked fairly well on *Google Meet*, we still hope to be able to meet in person for a June Voters Meeting. (We have also used the app for the Food Pantry meeting, Church for those not “online” and Bible Study.)

The June meeting may also be significant as we move forward toward issuing a joint call with St John in Kampsville and forming a dual parish. Our March meeting approved general plans for this.

Dual Parish Work

The next step will require a voters meeting at St John in Kampsville. They will need to decide to accept the plan in place, including choosing a time for Saturday Church services (which in the current plan will be their only normal worship time). There will only be Saturday worship at Kampsville (and hopefully a Bible Study time also), while Carrollton will have its current Church and Bible Study times on Sunday morning. All seasonal special services will also be at Our Redeemer.

Once Kampsville approves the plan that Our Redeemer’s voters approved in March, then both congregations would issue a joint call to Pastor Jacobsen and he will either accept that new call or continue to serve in his current call. Your prayers and thoughts and suggestions would be very much welcomed by the voters and well as by Pastor as the call process continues.

Saturday night services in Carrollton were set to end after Easter by the March voters. This was meant to give time for Kampsville and Carrollton to begin to operate on the proposed new schedule for a while before a call was sent to make that schedule permanent. Hopefully (more) normal services can resume soon and then we will follow that revised worship schedule – Saturdays in Kampsville and Sundays in Carrollton.

The following letter was sent by our Illinois Missouri Synod District Presidents on April 17, 2020;

The Honorable J.B. Pritzker, Governor
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Pritzker,

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, the crucified, risen and returning Lord!

The nearly 500 congregations of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod within Illinois pray for you and all magistrates regularly. We pray that the Lord may grant you good health, wisdom and discernment especially as you guide our state in this time of COVID-19. We further pray for all medical personnel, researchers and first responders who serve unselfishly.

Recognizing the danger we face, and the need to mitigate the spread of this virus, our churches, schools and people are following the guidelines issued by the State of Illinois. We have abided by these recommendations even during the most sacred week of the Christian Church Year. What troubled us from the very beginning was the exclusion of the Church and her ministry from the list of essential activities. We are more than a food pantry or transient assistance service. We prepare people to live now and for the life of the world to come.

Christians are among the best citizens in any jurisdiction. We are eager to do what is right and contribute our energies, resources and labor for the common good. Lutherans are unique in that we recognize what is called, the "Two Kingdoms." We believe that God has established two "kingdoms" here on earth. One is the "kingdom of the left" and the creation of earthly government and good order. This allows us to live in peace and safety. The second is the "kingdom of the right" and the establishment of the Church. This "kingdom" exists alongside the earthly government. Its concerns, however, are eternal and include such things as proclaiming the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation through Jesus Christ. Both kingdoms coexist and carry out their God-given responsibilities.

The First Amendment to the United States Constitution recognizes the importance of religion and its free exercise within our nation. Indeed the first European settlers came to our shores seeking freedom to worship as their conscience dictated. Our German forefathers came nearly two centuries ago seeking the same freedom of religion. We cherish this freedom and are seeking to be able to worship as we believe is true and proper. We are asking you to declare religious services as "essential" within the State of Illinois. Christians have a two thousand year history of caring for their neighbor and responding positively in times of plague and pestilence. It was Christians who were responsible for the establishment of hospitals in Western Civilization. This connection remains to the present day as the names of many hospitals bear witness.

People are fearful, hurting and living in isolation. The Church brings comfort and strength in Jesus Christ through God's Word and Sacraments. As unemployment rises the stress of making ends meet becomes a heavy burden. Stimulus packages help but they are not a substitute for paychecks. People need assurance that the

Lord will see them through this present time. Hope is one of the major benefits derived from public worship. It reinforces the sense of community and neighbor helping neighbor.

Our pastors are eager to serve their communities. They are willing to follow social distancing and other guidelines established by the State and Center for Disease Control. We are concerned about the elderly and those with underlying illnesses that may compound by the Corona virus should they contract it. We believe it is healthier to isolate the most vulnerable among us and allow the vast majority of healthy, lower risk individuals to live as normal of lives as possible.

We pray that you will favorably receive our petition and declare religious services as essential in the State of Illinois. Thank you for your consideration. Our prayers remain with you.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Allan Buss, President
Northern Illinois District - LCMS
Rev. Mark Miller, President
Central Illinois District - LCMS
Rev. Timothy Scharr, President
Southern Illinois District - LCMS

Update: Around midnight on April 30 Governor Pritzker updated his stay-at-home order to include small gatherings (under 10) to the list of legitimate essential activities. We don't know yet what this will mean for our church services as we continue on, but keep checking our webpage and facebook posts.

See the order here;

https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=https://cdn.vox-cdn.com/uploads/chorus_asset/file/19936998/EO2020_32.pdf

May 2020

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church Services with Holy Communion (unless otherwise noted) Every Saturday Sunday at 9 A.M. Sunday School for all ages Every Sunday at 10:15 A.M.					1	2 (LWML Spring Rally -cancelled)
3 Good Shepherd Sunday	4	5 (District Pastor Conference cancelled)	6 1-3 PM We serve at food pantry 3 PM Ministerial Alliance meeting 7:30 Church Council Mtg.	7 (1:30 PM Mount Gilead Service cancelled)	8	9
10 Mother's Day 1:30 PM Evangelism	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 9 AM The Ascension of Our Lord	22	23
24 Memorial Day	25	26	27 6 PM VBS Prep Meeting 7:30 PM Elders Meeting	28 (2:30 White Hall Nursing Service – cancelled)	29	30
31 Pentecost						

June 2020

	1	2	3 7:30 Church Voters Meeting	4 1:30 PM Mount Gilead Service	5	6
7 Holy Trinity	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 1 PM Evangelism	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Father's Day	22 1 PM Ladies Aid Meeting	23	24 7:30 Elders Mtg	25 2:30 White Hall Nursing Home Service	26	27
28	29	30	Our Redeemer Lutheran Church Services with Holy Communion Every Sunday at 9 A.M. Sunday School for all ages Every Sunday at 10:15 A.M.			