

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH
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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:
Monday 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Wednesday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
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THE DAILY NEWS

June 2020

Feelings of Isolation?

Feelings of Isolation?

In the Gospel lesson from May 14, (John 14:15-21) Jesus makes us a promise, “I will not leave you orphaned.” This is truly good news. God is not some ruthless heavenly spectator judging us, like they do on reality television... saying things like ‘you’re not good enough’ or ‘you’re fired’ or ‘you’re not getting a rose because you’re not pretty or handsome enough’ or wanting to exchange you for - maybe someone better suited (whatever that means).

Rather, God comes to love us ‘in Jesus’, singularly loving and accepting us, seeking our trust, and promising to be ever-present with us in the Holy Spirit. This Holy Advocate (The Holy Spirit) moves us even when we don’t recognize God’s power.

While we might feel lonely at times, we might feel depressed at times, we have not been abandoned. Many of life’s experiences can leave us feeling orphaned or abandoned. Family can ease that feeling - but – family can also increase those feelings of being abandoned if our family relationships are strained or if our families live far away.

Also, consider those in our community who count deployed soldiers among their loved ones in recent years, or construction workers and tradesmen who need to live in hotels far away from their families to keep making money for their families in the recent difficult economy, or families being isolated due to the corona virus. These feelings can make us be very uneasy, if not downright upset.

The Internet, webcams, Skype, Zoom, and other forms of social networking can link people across the miles but can further aggravate loneliness and isolation when these substitute for real intimacy in our highly connected world. How do we experience this loneliness and this longing for home and belonging? How does Jesus’ promise that he will not leave us orphaned speak to these real-life concerns?

When Jesus makes this string of promises in John 14, saying that he will remain with us in the Holy Spirit as our Advocate, it’s hard to envision how this support comes to us sometimes. When we do not get to see or hear those we love, the simple gifts Jesus offers in body and blood, bread and wine shared with real warm neighbors have great power. Even when life keeps delivering bad news about how far apart we are from another, how broken our relationships are, “I will not leave you orphaned” is the godly reassurance that we are not alone.

And even in times like these, where normal is not what we think of as normal, the Holy Spirit still warms our hearts and souls. The Holy Spirit keeps us company. The Holy Spirit lights our way, down an unknown path. It’s a God like this that can give us strength, comfort, and perseverance. Remember that God loves each and every one of you.

Dave Kohls, Director of Ministries



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I am writing this article, weeks before May 26, when our governor will let us know what steps we can take to halt the spread of the virus in Wisconsin. I doubt sincerely that we will be meeting for church services in June. But miracles still happen. Let's continue to pray for health and a quick end to this time of trial.

Although I miss being in church with you, I have been enjoying the drive-thru communion time. For the first week or two, there was a quick exchange of pleasantries, communion and on to the next car. Now it is more relaxing, with more conversation and prayer with communion. I enjoy it more now, although I'll enjoy it more on warm sunny days.

As I mentioned last month, I am going to try something different during the months of June and July. I will be preaching primarily on the story of Gideon as found in the book of Judges, chapters 6-8. I will still be reading the gospel lesson of the day and will usually tie it in with the Old Testament lesson.

Someone might ask, "Why am I doing this?" First and most important, Gideon is an example of how we might know when and how God speaks to us. I think more of us would like God to speak to us more often

A second reason is the lectionary. The lectionary is very good at centering our thoughts and sermons on Christ. It is good at looking at incidents, miracles and conversations of Jesus. But it is not good at putting a story together, and it ignores large parts of the epistles and Old Testament. If you heard all the lectionary lessons for three years, you would never hear about Samson, Jonah and the Whale, or much of David's life before he became king. And you would know nothing about Gideon except his name.

Scriptures and sermon titles for June are as follows:

June 7 Trinity Sunday

Gen. 1:1-2:4a

Mt. 28:16-20

June 14 "Meeting God"

Judges 6:(1-10)11-24

Mt. 9:35-10:8

June 21 "First steps in obeying God"

Judges 6:25-32

Mt. 10:24-39

June 28 "Fleeing God"

Judges 6:33-40

Mt. 10:40-42

Karen's Korner

June 2020

The Gloria Dei Council meet May 12th after a month hiatus. There were many things to discuss concerning church business in general and news from the synod office concerning updates on proposed guidelines for reopening churches for worship service. Gloria Dei had targeted May 24th as a date to start collective worship again. That will not happen. **I am asking you to pay close attention to the newsletter, the weekly announcements, and any mail you may receive from Gloria Dei.** We will be releasing more information as the synod and council make decisions on what is to come. Even when we reopen it will not be as casual and complete as it has been in the past. Please pray for the council and the decisions we must make. Once they are made, please understand that we have made them prayerfully ourselves and what we have discerned is best for the church as a whole. In the mean time we will continue to seek ways to enrich our means of sending out the worship service, and continue the ongoing business needs of the church.

In other news:

The council continues reaching out to all members via phone calls, emails, etc. Don't hesitate to give them your prayer concerns. Our prayer list is growing so we also ask you to say a prayer for all those listed during the Sunday service. Once again, we ask you to remember Mike and Carol Field. They have always appreciated when people drop by (at a safe distance) to say hi and any meals that are provided. Please consider doing either or both.

The council committees are as active as they can be. A huge thank you to David Hoban, treasurer, and the property committee for taking care of insurance needs, clean up, and replacement of the swing set and signage at church damaged by a recent wind storm. Bryce Larson is working with the property committee and Joe and Mary Jo Mullenbach, Rhea Schwantes, and Barb Spiegel for continuing to care for the yard and landscaping.

Thanks to Dave Kohls and Pastor Jim for working so hard to provide us with worship opportunities, and taking care of so many needs of the congregation.

As time goes by, and things inevitably change, please take special care of yourselves, stay well, stay safe, and give time each day, no matter how brief, to take a moment in devotion and prayer as we move forward together.



Gloria Dei Church Council May 14, 2020

Present: Karen Ebert, Julie Schaefer, Barb Spiegel, David Hoban, Roxie Ruechel, Dave Kohls, Ruth Camomilli, Bryce Larson, Nealey Janicek,

Call to Order at 6 p.m.

Opening Prayer –Dave opened with prayer

Approval of Agenda – Motion Julie, second Barb to accept agenda with an addition in Fellowship. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report – Motion Bryce, second Julie to accept minutes are presented. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Motion Barb, second Nealey to accept report as presented. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

- Outreach-(Roxie) Highway clean-up went well with 7 individuals participating. An announcement will be included with weekly announcement to drop off a meal for Mike & Carol Field in their time of need.
- Property-(Bryce) Julie and Darryl sent water specimen for annual well testing for DNR. Rhea & Barb having been working on garden maintenance; Rhea is obtaining an Action Team Card for mulch. Parking lot will be re-surfaced in July.
- Worship- (Dave) – Parking Lot Service @89.1 FM will begin soon. Drive though communion has been going well.
- Director of Ministries- Audio/visual worship many continue for the next 9-12 months. Risk assessment and following CDC guidelines will dictate progression. Karen and Dave are using ZOOM to meet with ELCA Synod members and pastors.

Old Business

- **Special Congregational Meeting** – The meeting was postponed; will be postponed until it is necessary to form Call Committee and any other items that may develop. All guidelines will be followed.
- **Update on membership calling** - Has been going well for some and spotty for others via phone and emails. Suggestion to drop card a "Hi" how are you doing card. Nealey volunteered to send graduation cards to our graduates.
- **Executive meetings update**- Committee met. Issue resolved.
- **VBS (David)**- Crossways canceled their participation. Down payment can be rolled over to next year expenses. Motion Nealey, second Roxie to designate one Sunday in June/July to collect benevolence funds for Crossways Camp. Motion carried.

New Business

- Synod letter discussion**- Discussion .As the world "opens" again there will be many policies and procedures to be put in place. We will continue to work with the ELCA synod following their guidelines.
- Property and Insurance** -The wind damage occurring to the mobile sign and playground equipment are covered at replacement cost with a \$500 deductible. Motion Dave, second Barb to pursue replacement costs for both. Motion carried. Nealey will research sign costs.
- Continuation of pay for staff and hold on rent for Pentecostals**- Motion Nealey, second Bryce to continue paying payroll at normal rate. Motion Carried. Motion Roxie, second Julie to suspend rent until the end of July for the Pentecostal Church. Motion Carried.
- Adjusting calendar of events and any need for activities being set back**- postponed to next meeting.
- Property line encroachment**- Big Joe's Service shared their concern regarding property encroachment and damage by renter of adjacent property. It was also noted the renter has been running big equipment through the parking lot driveway. By consensus this is not acceptable. A letter will be sent to the landowner advising them of our concerns of the damage and encroachment being done by the renter (secretary will send).
- Update on Dave's letter to congregation**- Dave will start an internship in September. He presented a plan regarding DM role. No action taken.
- Personal Request**-Dave requested to use sanctuary to record services for Old Catholic Church group. Ok'd by consensus.
- Adjourn with Lord's Prayer** - Motion Bryce, second Dave to adjourn. Motion Carried. 7:40PM

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Spiegel

subject to approval at next council meeting

Next Meeting – June 9, 2020