



April 2020  
#709

# The Chimes

First Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
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## From Pastor Bill

Dear Friends in Christ:

The reality of the corona virus is affecting and obviously will affect our common life as a church. We must think about how we can respond to this unparalleled time in our culture. This certainly is a crisis time, but should not be viewed as a time for panic. We're in this together, and life will at some time burst through the veil of death.

The church is a community, and we can continue to care for one another, even if we cannot be with each other. Please call other members of the church just to check on them. If they are looking for someone to pick up food for them, we can find someone who is willing to do so.

For the foreseeable future, we will not be meeting as a community. Staying away from each other, and when we do come together, maintaining physical distance from each other are the ways these days we will be expressing the love of God. This won't be forever, but the absence from each other may be longer than any of us would like.

Worship at 10:30 on Sunday mornings will be hosted on Facebook Live. The experience will be briefer than normal, as might be expected. Bible study will be hosted on Google Hang Outs on Thursdays at noon. Beth Milligan will communicate how to connect to this through the e-newsletter and through Facebook. I may host another weekly digital experience, but that is yet to be determined.

Decisions will have to be made as to how we will

survive financially. If you are able, I would encourage you to continue your offerings. Mail them in, or join the many who give automatically. Those of you who are capable of giving larger gifts could be very helpful at this point. I commit myself to this kind of generosity.

Our church council will meet next Thursday on-line to talk about our financial situation. I would not want to create panic or anxiety, but temporary lays offs and/or reductions in salaries may be some of the choices we may need to face. The majority of our expenditures are for staff, so this is the place where reductions will need to be made. I treasure our staff and would hate to see these kinds of actions. But the nature of the times may require drastic measures.

We will weather this crisis. But it won't be without its victims (all of us). During this time of Lent, we tell the truth about death. It's real. But we trust that something is at work that is larger than death. We believe in resurrection. But in the meantime, we wait on God.

Pastor Bill

| <b>Weekend</b>           | <b>Scripture Readings</b>   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>04/04 &amp; 04/05</b> | <b>Isa 50:4-9a, Ps 31:9-16<br/>Phil 2:5-11, Matt 27:11-54</b>                         |
| <b>04/09</b>             | <b>Exod 12:1-4, 11-14, Ps 116:1-2, 12-19<br/>1 Cor 11:23-26, John 13:1-17, 31b-35</b> |
| <b>04/10</b>             | <b>Isa 52:13—53:12, Ps 22<br/>Heb 4:14-16; 7-9, John 18:1-19:42</b>                   |
| <b>04/12</b>             | <b>Jer 31:1-6, Ps 118:1-2, 14-24<br/>Acts 10:34-43, John 20:1-18</b>                  |
| <b>04/18 &amp; 04/19</b> | <b>Acts 2:14a, 22-32, Ps 16<br/>1 Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31</b>                      |
| <b>04/26 &amp; 04/27</b> | <b>Acts 2:14a, 36-41, Ps 116:1-4, 12-19<br/>1 Peter 1:17-23, Luke 24:13-35</b>        |



## From Intern Paula

How does one begin a monthly news article in the middle of a global pandemic? It has affected *all* of our lives in one way or another. We have altered our routines, changed the way we do business and have been asked to *social distance* ourselves from one another. The term or concept, *social distance*, has appeared in every newsfeed around the world and has inundated conversations 24/7 these past several weeks. I was curious about the origin of *social distance* so I did a little research.

The term, or concept, takes on many connotations and has evolved over time as many sociologists have added to the original study of human behavior in this area. The onset of the initial theory was formulated in the 1890's and went on to include the "Social Distance Scale" which was created in 1925. The sociology behind many of the studies ranges from geographical separation, emotional separation and social distancing oneself (or groups) into a category that considers who is an "insider" and who is an "outsider or foreigner." A second approach views social distance as a normative category. In other words, it specifies the distinction between "us" and "them." If you find yourself with a little time on your hands, you may want to look up a few things about *social distance*, which has now become a mantra in circles around the world and attributed to slowing the coronavirus down and ultimately, saving lives.

So what *do* I write about when we are all separated physically and in need of community now more than ever? There is an age-old song that came to mind when I was thinking about *social distancing* and what draws us together as the body of Christ. You may know it. The song is called: *They'll Know We are Christians by Our Love* by songwriter Peter Scholtes. Here are the lyrics:

*We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord  
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord  
And we pray that our unity will one day be restored  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

*We will work with each other, we will work side by*

*side*

*We will work with each other, we will work side by side*

*And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride*

*And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love*

*And they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

By our love. Wow! I believe this song encapsulates who we are as a faith community, not only at First Lutheran, but as the 'holy catholic church' - the universal church. Miriam-Webster's definition of the term universal states: *covering all or a whole collectively; existent or operative everywhere or under all conditions*. The 'holy catholic church' is stated in the third petition of the Apostle's Creed which we read together during various seasons in the church to reaffirm our faith as a community; "I believe in the holy catholic church." That is, the true Christian church of all times and all places.

We are one...whether we gather in the building on Whitehall Road or not. And one day, we will sit in the pews together again, we will intimately share the peace with each other and we will lift up our voices in praise...together, in one space. But for now...we are one in the Spirit and to me, that's comforting. I don't feel so isolated when I place my hope in that promise.

And how do we work with each other, side-by-side, when we are told to *social distance* ourselves from community? We pick up the phone and call someone. Perhaps someone we haven't talked to in a while. Catch up or tell stories. Send a letter, note or card to people in care facilities, to those recovering from surgery or to those... who are dying. Address a card to the medical staff at local hospitals or to those who tirelessly stack shelves throughout the night or to those we know who travel cross-county in trucks to bring the goods. We deliver food, pick up meds and worship *online* when possible, at least for now. We sing a song, read the lectionary readings for the week and we exercise gratitude.

How will they know we are Christians...by *our love*? Well, you see, *this love*, the love of Christ proclaimed, isn't defined by distance, it's not determined by our physical presence nor is it diverted in the midst of a global pandemic. The love of Christ that is rooted in grace and lives in our hearts is alive and well. And one day, our unity *will be restored* and when it is...we will also be known by our love at that time, too.

Shalom, my friends, take good care of yourselves.  
Paula



**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE**

**MAY 11, 12:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.  
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
SIGN UP: [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or  
Call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)  
Your help is needed!!!**

“With the recent outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) continuing to spread in the U.S., please be assured that “blood donation is a safe process, and people should not hesitate to give and receive blood. We are dedicated to ensuring the safety of your donors as well as our employees and volunteers as we continue to run our blood drive operations.

**Safety First**

At each blood drive, Red Cross employees follow thorough safety protocols including wearing gloves and personal protective gear, wiping down donor-touched areas after every collection, using sterile collection sets for every donation, and arm scrubbing. These mitigation measures will help ensure blood recipient safety, as well as staff and donor safety in reducing contact with those who may potentially have this respiratory infection.

In addition, please note that there are no data or evidence to show that this coronavirus can be transmissible by blood transfusion, and there have been no reported cases of transmissions for any respiratory virus including this coronavirus. Nonetheless, the Red Cross has implemented new blood donation deferrals out of an abundance of caution, asking individuals to postpone their donation for 28 days if they meet certain risk criteria.

**The Need Is Great**

Your efforts to deliver our lifesaving blood services mission have never been more important. Your drives will help keep the blood supply stable during this challenging time and prevent shortages that could impact patient care. **OUR INVENTORY IS LOW.**”

**PLEASE DONATE!!**

**Weekly Attendance and Offerings For February**

**Weekend of 02/01 & 02/02**

Attendance: 205  
General Fund: \$7,111.74  
Mortgage Fund: \$804.00  
Dollar-a-Day: \$875.43

**Weekend of 02/08 & 02/09**

Attendance: 237  
General Fund: \$8,041.94  
Mortgage Fund: \$970.00  
Noisy Offering: \$186.40

**Weekend of 02/15 & 02/16**

Attendance: 189  
General Fund: \$6,068.79  
Mortgage Fund: \$729.00  
Wed. Night Dinner: \$162.10

**Weekend of 02/22 & 02/23**

Attendance: 222  
General Fund: \$7,451.64  
Mortgage Fund: \$1,701.00  
Noisy Offering: \$182.66

|                                       |                  |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Total General Fund Offering received: | \$28,674.11      |
| Total General Fund Offering needed:   | <u>33,354.92</u> |
|                                       | -\$4,680.81      |

|                                   |                 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Total Mortgage Offering received: | \$4,204.00      |
| Total Mortgage Offering needed:   | <u>7,192.00</u> |
|                                   | -\$2,988.00     |



**Our Monthly Donations**

- April**—Craft supplies for a preschool in Mona Shores
- May**—Hygiene & Cleaning supplies for Gracious Grounds

**Thank You!!**

*Thanks to Lark Roberts who assembled the March Chimes.*

## April Birthdays!

- 
- |    |  |    |  |    |  |
|----|--|----|--|----|--|
| 1  | Florian Borowski   | 12 | Faye Holmen                                    | 26 | Connie Larson<br>Cade Paugh<br>Colden Jones              |
| 2  | Mason Milligan   | 13 | Thomas Freeman                                 | 27 | Elizabeth Van Fossan                                     |
| 3  | Janet Collinge<br>Linnea Ostrom  | 14 | Robert Shaver<br>Randi Brant                   | 28 | Glenn Fiebelkorn<br>James Studeman<br>Madeleine Wosinski |
| 4  | Debby Jaquith<br>Maren Pfhistner   | 16 | Bonnie Kelis<br>Robert Goodman<br>Mason Zizak  | 29 | Stephen Smith<br>Dale Mead<br>Lynda Ferry                |
| 6  | Piper Sweet  | 17 | Tony McCleary<br>Robin Latsch<br>Jayson Dibble | 30 | Kenneth Kadrovich<br>Sandra Hutchins<br>Matthew Besteman |
| 7  | Bonnie Paige<br>Valerie Barnes<br>Chase Zizak<br>Spencer Zizak<br>Megan Badley | 20 | Elin Frietsch<br>Michaela Beidler              |    |  |
| 8  | Toni Pruitt  | 21 | Bruce Meloche<br>Michael Sweet                 |    |  |
| 9  | Bruce Milligan<br>Boyd Freeman   | 23 | Kim Cooke<br>Dylan Dahlstrom                   |    |  |
| 10 | Dennis Cobler<br>Pat Westjohn  | 24 | Sherrell Christenson<br>Nancy Goudzwaard       |    |  |
| 11 | James Clark  | 25 | Catherine Strait                               |    |  |

## Keepers

**Flo Bates**

667 Lake Forest Ln Apt P1  
Muskegon, MI 49441  
767-2494

**Elaine Brevick**

Seminole Shores  
850 Seminole Rd  
Norton Shores, MI 49441

**Linda Cates**

1585 Wolf Lake Rd.  
Muskegon, MI 49442  
788-1806

**Pat Mullinex**

2284 Riverwood Drive  
Twin Lake, MI 49457

**Violet Peterson**

Sanctuary of the Oaks  
1740 Village Dr.  
Muskegon, MI 49442

**Jean Sodini**

Robbinswood Northcrest Campus  
2650 Ruddiman Ave.  
N. Muskegon, MI 49445

**Wally Tallent**

Hillcrest Nursing & Rehab  
Community  
695 Mitzi Dr.  
Muskegon, MI 49445  
744-1641

**FRIENDS OF FIRST  
WHO ARE HOMEBOUND****Sandy Fisher**

**(Carol Anderson's sister)**

Robbinswood Northcrest Campus  
Room 114  
2650 Ruddiman Ave.  
N. Muskegon, MI 49445

**Dorothy Wood**

Hillcrest Nursing & Rehab  
Community  
695 Mitzi Dr.  
Muskegon, MI 49445