



June 2020  
#711

# The Chimes

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## From Pastor Bill

Dear Friends:

The experience of quarantine seems to be going on and on. Who would have thought that when we began the quarantine that by June we still would be hunkering down at home? Perhaps by the time you read this, the governor will have rescinded the stay-at-home order.

The rescinding of the order will likely mean our entrance into the first phase of the re-opening of our building. But know this: the return to church life will not be like the turning on of a switch. It will be a process—for us, a three-phase process.

The first phase involves more of the same. Worship will continue on-line with more folks involved. Yet some small groups will be allowed to meet. We will be talking about what this might mean for us. We might test out having groups of ten or less meeting for prayer, fellowship, and study. Groups like AA will likely return to the building, and some staff will return to their offices. All folks entering the building will be asked to wear masks and to practice physical distancing.

The second phase will include larger groups being able to meet, including perhaps people gathered for worship, although on-line worship will continue. We will work hard to limit the size of these gatherings, perhaps adding a service and asking for reservations for worship attendance. We will discover ways to provide for physical distancing. It wouldn't surprise me that we will hold worship sometimes outside or in our Family Life Center. Masks will be required during this phase as well. Shared food experiences will still not be allowed.

The third phase will find us less preoccupied with physical distancing and more open to larger group gatherings. Food experiences will be a matter of discernment. And the gathering of children together will be considered.

Throughout all of these phases, please know that we will work very hard as a congregation to keep our facility sanitized. We have purchased a fogger sanitizer and will increase the number of hand-sanitizer stations that we have. They will be highlighted with signs.

Also, through these phases we will encourage those who are sick to always stay away from public gatherings, including those of the church. And we would urge those of you who are particularly

*(Continued on page 3)*



## From Intern Paula

This past week I came across a commentary from the San Diego Union Tribune entitled: *Church is never canceled. Even in the time of COVID-19.* The article was written by Pastor Tim Spivey of New Vintage Church in Escondido, California. I felt that much of what this pastor had to say encapsulates what the universal church is experiencing during this time of a global pandemic. So for my reflection this month, I would like to share a portion of this article with you and add a few comments at the end. Here are Pastor Spivey's comments:

*Last weekend, many churches experienced a bitter first that may become a bitter second, third or tenth. They didn't meet in person. For those who haven't belonged to a church before, it may not seem to be that big of a deal. For Christians, it is an enormous deal. Why? Because we believe God is there among us, we love being together, and because something special is formed in us when we gather. The church has gathered in person, regularly, for 2,000 years. People still come. They come when it rains (and snows). They come even when there are festivals, sporting events and other distractions at their disposal.*

*In times like these, I'm exceedingly grateful for the ability to gather online. It's just that what makes church so special is the people. What you miss is the smiles, the hugs, the joking around with the kids. The sights and sounds are so beautiful, what might sound like a cacophony to some is a pure symphony to the believer. Hugs, high fives, laughter, coffee and communion. We all know the difference between grandma and grandpa talking to the grandkids on Facetime and them scooping the kids up and hugging them as they come through the doorway. Online is the next best thing, but not the best thing.*

*Churches will be impacted enormously by meeting online. Some may never reopen. Some may go upside down financially and never recover. In turn,*

*this will negatively impact communities. Contrary to what some might believe, Christians make significant contributions to nearly every vital aspect of society: arts, music, education, and perhaps, especially, health care. Aligning with the suffering during times of uncertainty and calamity is profoundly Christian. This has been the case throughout history. During the Plague of Cyprian (a pandemic that afflicted the Roman Empire from about the year 250 to 262), 5,000 people died a day in Rome alone. Among them were two Roman Emperors.*

*The church has worshiped for 2,000 years and no virus will end that. This season presents some amazing opportunities for churches with eyes to see. But this is tough. It's also worth it. So keep loving your church. Write the encouragement note. Pray like you've never prayed before. Continue to give, click like, and share. Church is never canceled. Consider yourself invited. We may not wow everyone. That's okay.*

Paula's comments: I, too, am grateful for the blessing of technology which enables us to stay connected and worship online. We can still gather as a church and it has allowed us to forge new connections - even globally. However, my heart aches as online worship explicitly has created gaps between generations, gaps among those in our society who are marginalized and separation of those who are most vulnerable. I miss visiting with people in nursing homes and hospitals. I miss holding the hand of those who are dying. I miss my grandchildren's laughter and love. I miss the stories of those who have gone before me and of those who come after me. I miss *you*. Nothing online can replace those human interactions that are life-giving. But languishing in lament will not advance God's mission. Yes, grief from the losses we have experienced and, I surmise will continue to experience, is real. But I feel we have a responsibility and as Pastor Tim Spivey put it, "...a season of opportunities" in which to see the church with new eyes. This brings hope and excitement to my heart. We are smart people. We are creative people. We are God's people and our stories, the ones which connect us to the "big" story, need to continue to be woven throughout our lives. So, let's figure this out together. Let's *be church...together*. Online, offline or landline.

Peace be with you.

Paula



*Pastor Bill's Letter (cont)*

physically vulnerable to not attend, if you have fears. This holds true especially for those of you who have compromised lung capacities.

Our on-line presence is here to stay. So, if you have not entered the digital world, it may be time for you to do so. There is a learning curve, but you will feel so much more connected to our common life, if you do. Worship on-line occurs on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. and can be accessed through Facebook. Two adult education opportunities meet on Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. and Thursdays at noon. They are Zoom experiences. So, you need an invitation from me.

These are, indeed, new and difficult days. While I would give anything to go back to the pre-quarantine days, I have found in these days some things for which I am so grateful. One of those realities is the way our on-line presence has connected me (and us) to people from throughout the country and even the world!

If you would like to talk sometime, feel free to call me. I always consider it a privilege to journey with people who are struggling with life or rejoicing over it. My phone number is 231-830-4889.

Hang in there! And thanks for the ways you have expressed your care for Bev and me. Apple pies, scones, cards, notes, kids' artwork, meaningful conversations on the phone or on Zoom or on Facebook Messenger—all of these have been a sign of the presence of God in my life and in our life together.



## From Shar Music Director

### Musical Opportunities

Greetings from “music” land! I hope your lives are continuing to be enriched with music as we continue our “fast” from people! When we gradually reintegrate into community, we will finally be able to share the joy of making music together again. As with other aspects of our lives, this will be accomplished incrementally. If you are interested in making a contribution to our services virtually or otherwise, please let me know.

I have seen some pretty amazing music making online. Unfortunately, as you may know, I seem to be all thumbs when it comes to digital skills! Therefore, if you have worked on a project that you can share, please consider it. If you are willing to consider a live safe small ensemble, let me know. I am looking forward to gradually reintegrating into community life again!

Musically yours,  
Shar Bourdon  
Music Director

<b>Weekend</b>	<b>Scripture Readings</b>
06/06 & 06/07	Gen 1:1-2:4a, Ps 8 2 Cor 13:11-13, Matt 28:16-20
06/13 & 06/14	Exod 19:2-8a, Ps 100 Rom 5:1-8, Matt 9:35-10:8 [9-23]
06/20 & 06/21	Jer 20:7-13, Ps 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18 Rom 6:1b-11, Matt 10:24-39
06/27 & 06/28	Jer 28:5-9, Ps 89:1-4, 15-18 Rom 6:12-23, Matt 10:40-42



## Confirmation News

Our 1st, 2nd, and 3rd year confirmation students have been meeting on Wednesdays via a Zoom room. Pastor Bill has been working with the third year students and their mentors as they discuss the “test” which students are to complete prior to confirmation. The test reviews Luther’s small catechism, pertinent Bible knowledge and helps students delve deeper into their personal reflection on faith.

First and second year students have enjoyed reconnecting with their friends in their Zoom room meetings. The games of Pictionary and sketch-a-letter, along with a scavenger hunt around their houses filled the evening with laughter and fun. The students are also engaged in writing notes and drawing pictures for those on our prayer list and in care facilities. One night I asked the kids this question, “What’s the one thing you miss doing the most while in quarantine?” Here are their responses:

...going to see my friends  
...going to school and being with my friends  
...sports, especially baseball  
...baseball  
...rehearsing for the musical  
...hanging out with people after school  
...after school activities; interacting with people at church.

And for the Bible scholars out there, here are a few questions from the third year confirmation test:

- How many books are there in the Bible? Old Testament? New Testament?
- This book describes the history of the early church
- List the five topics covered by the *Small Catechism*
- What Jewish meal celebrates Israel’s rescue from the Egyptians?
- We sing that the “church is not a building where people go to pray.” We sing that the “church is not a business, a committee, or a board.” What is the church to you? Why is it important to you?



## Official Acts



### Deaths

*Sharon Cooke*  
Date of Birth: 03/21/1942  
Date of Death: 04/27/2020

*Jeanette Goodman*  
Date of Birth: 03/19/1941  
Date of Death: 05/09/2020



## Ms. Paula’s Place

Join Paula at her place (Ms. Paula’s Place~) on Friday mornings at 10am for a journey through some of her favorite books! You can access the YouTube video on First Lutheran Muskegon Facebook page’



## Attention: ALL FIRST LUTHERAN YOUTH


I want to let you ALL know that I am thinking of you and truly missing ALL of your precious faces. I am missing our outings and fun times together during these 'Stay Home, Stay Safe' days while we are apart. By doing our part though, and having faith in God, we WILL be together again.

I look forward to planning more fun events for us in the future. Even though the rest of our 'school year' has been cancelled, my hope is that we can find a way to gather this summer for some safe, outdoor fun.

In the meantime, ....

- Hug your family,
- Say your prayers,
- Be kind,
- Do not fight with your brother or sister,
- Help your parents,
- Stay safe, and
- Love one another.

If you need me for any reason, please feel free to send me an email, give me a call, or send me a text. I am here for you always.

I love you all! 

Amy Badley  
Youth Coordinator  
[amy@firstlutheranmuskegon.com](mailto:amy@firstlutheranmuskegon.com)  
231.730.4149

P.S. Be sure to keep an eye on your mailbox! You should be hearing from me soon!

# Thank You!!

Thanks to Lark Roberts who assembled the May Chimes.



Many thanks to Bonnie Nolan for organizing the Seminole Shores Driveby Parade May 13th!

It was a beautiful, sunny day, and 30+ cars from First Lutheran and the Classic Car Club participated. The signs and flowers and balloons and smiles were amazing.

It was such a heart-warming experience to see all of the caring and support.

This was also the first time in 8+ weeks that we could see Elaine (Mom) in person!

Elaine always loves parades and she loved every minute of it! :)

God is good!

Jan and Bill Naymick

## Chimes Articles

Articles and information for the Chimes should be submitted via email to Rhonda Smith at rhondak33@comcast.net or placed in her mail box next to the church offices no later than the **15th of the month.**



## VBS Update

We have put Vacation Bible School on hold for the moment. Our Education Ministry is looking at multiple options to utilize the curriculum if not in-person during the latter part of the summer.

Prior to the pandemic, we invested in a mini-curriculum (\$100) which we felt could be enhanced to fit our individual church's needs. This gave us a lot of flexibility at the time, but in retrospect, it gives us even more leeway as we move into uncharted waters!

Our Education Ministry continues to meet on a regular basis and explore new ways to keep our kids connected. Thanks to the members of this ministry for their positive outlook, great ideas and compassion to serve the kids in our community!



## Congratulations Graduates!

### High School

Madison Ball  
Dylan Dahlstrom  
Isabelle Freeland  
William Peterson  
Kolten Plekes.  
Sadie Schlager

Spring Lake  
Reeths-Puffer  
Fruitport  
Fremont  
Holton  
Reeths-Puffer

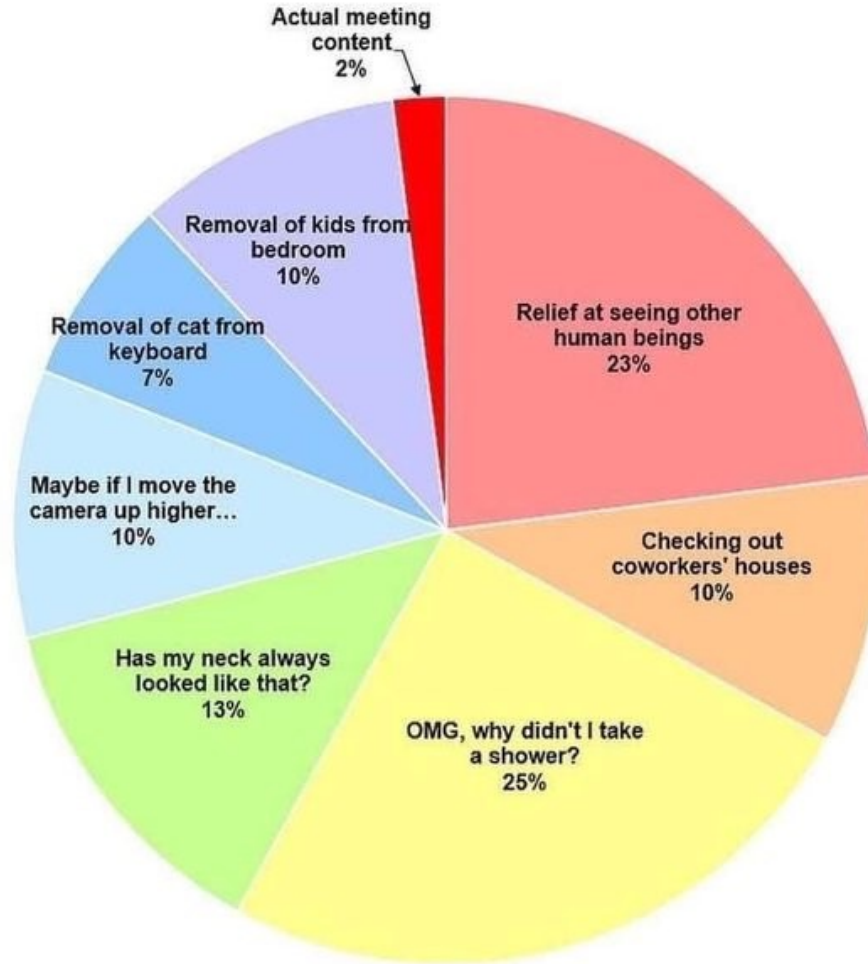
### College

Mitchell Anderson  
Linnea Byl  
Rylee Cooke  
Kaitlin Rich

Central Michigan University  
Michigan State University  
Purdue  
Central Michigan University



## Diagram of Zoom Meeting Attention Span



## 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

**Aileen Horton**

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

**Pat Mullinnex**

2284 Riverwood Drive  
Twin Lake, MI 49457

**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**

**Dorothy Wood**

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

## June Birthdays!

1	Amy Badley	14	Robert Metiva	22	Annette Jack Mary Will
3	Lindsie Traxler Julian Neely	15	Rodney Gallo Mackenzie Wheeler	23	Isabelle Freeland
4	Joshua Will Dawn Shank	16	Lawrence Loch Thu Le John Rodriguez Brenna Veihl	24	Debra Wosinski
6	Thomas Kanaar Nickolaas White Aiden Frey	17	Kathleen Cobler Stephanie Tyler	26	Daniel Januska
7	Aileen Horton Jalen Benton	18	Mercedes Schlager	27	Kathryn Essing-Craig
8	Anne Schalow Jeffrey Cooke	19	Stanley Huey Joan Cottrell Gregory Liskey Jacob Wall	29	Roland Faulknor Craig Traxler
9	William Peterson Sandra Fluharty	20	Jerry Sharlow Craig Studeman Lisa Ziemelis	30	Linda Sahlhoff Timothy Staudacher David Plekes
11	Mary Burnell Terry Henry				
12	Edward Redline Dee Barber Roger Barber Jim Elliott	21	Ernest Taylor T.J. McCleary		



## Church Calendar for June

**Lectionary Bible Study** (we look at the readings for the coming Sunday)- **Thursdays at noon to 1:00**— If anyone would like to have an evening Bible study I would like to know that. I would start one.

**Video and Discussion**—Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. We watch a video of a well-known thinker of our time (e.g. Brene Brown, Richard Rohr, Barbara Brown Taylor) and then discuss. Both require an invitation that you can get from Pastor ([bill@firstlutheranmuskegon.com](mailto:bill@firstlutheranmuskegon.com)).

**Paula's Reading segment for kids**—Friday at 10:00 a.m.

**Worship is every Sunday** at 10:30 and generally can be reached through Facebook. (Most of the time we will be on Facebook Live.)

**Virtual coffee** hour at 11:30 on Sundays

**Church Council** will meet on Thursday, June 25 on Zoom at 7:00.

**Tai Chi with Father Pat** on Weds at 8:00 a.m.

**Compline: End of Day Prayer** on Facebook Live from Monday thru Thursday at 9:00 p.m.