



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

JULY
2020

Greetings to my sisters and brothers in the faith,

I must admit that I struggle in times like these, as I believe that I am more of an optimist than a pessimist. My optimism might come from the reality that I was raised by a self-identified “worry wart” mother. The optimism I have may also come from spending a great amount of time with my father and grandfather who were both farmers and did not know of a year in which there was no hope. But I must admit that I am rapidly approaching the point where my optimism is becoming strained to the near breaking point.

I must also admit that I am watching less and less news on a daily basis and have all but ignored Satan’s playground, otherwise known as ‘Facebook’. By definition ‘news’ is the reporting on that which has never occurred before, which is seldom the case for the 24 hour news cycle driven by TV ratings. The reality for me is that some much of what is called social media is only the ‘unsocial’ media, where even Lutheran pastors, my colleagues and friends reside, and the 8th Commandment and its meaning has gone to die. Look that up if you would and let the Commandment and its meaning run around in your mind for a

while before dismissing me out of hand.

Having said all this I must now remind myself and maybe even a few of you that mine and your optimism is not based on the things of this world. In fact, the word of God speaks nothing about what we call “optimism”. Rather the word of God speaks of hope which is a far deeper concept with eternal ramifications. In fact the words from Hebrew and Koine Greek which we translate into the word ‘hope’ and the various cognates thereof appears 209 times in the Old and New Testaments. This may not seem to be very significant in sheer numbers, it is however significant as it relates to the depth of the meaning of God’s activity.

We as humans claim a certain hope based upon the locations of our births, the family of our origins and the education we have received formally and informally. The hope humans cling too is based on the belief in things such as man’s inherent goodness, or the more we know the better we become or some such drivel. Placing ones hope on a person or in a human institution is folly, as say the Psalmist as well as the preacher of the Book of Ecclesiastes; for humans rarely, if ever, actually act 100% of the time altruistically. In fact altruis-

tic people do not exist; they occasionally may show glimmers of such in their lives, but never ever such for their entire life span. So placing ones hope on humans and human institutions is never safe or fulfilling.

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In these days where we are locked away from broader contact with one another and our communities are more reflective of a house divided where do we find hope. I turn to the words of Paul who writes; “For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.” (Romans 8:24-25) Our hope is not realized in the avoidance of the pain and suffering that worldly afflictions bring upon us. Our hope is not placed in being set apart, from the actions of others which can cause pain and suffering, even to us as children of God. No, our hope is IN the love of God who promises us life.

It is God through his Holy Spirit, who promises us life in this kingdom filled with great joy. God’s joy is a condition of living in hope; whereas is merely an emotional response to the good times and things around us. God’s hope in this kingdom is the power given to us to wake in each new day and live into it with God. Our hope in this kingdom draws us into living with God in our service to him by serving others. It is our daily hope to one day live into that deeper hope which we patiently, and sometimes impatiently, wait for.

That greater and deeper hope we live with and into is the hope of salvation. Our hope in Jesus Christ is not the hope of a better today here, without having hope for the best of eternity that God

is giving. We are called into our various activities to give hope of eternal life, won through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, through our witness. Without that hope coming from the living, there really truly is no hope to share. It is time for the church; individual members, congregations and the whole of the ELCA servant leadership to declare **that** hope. If we fail to live out God-given hope into our community, well then we can expect people to respond to worldly events with world responses. Death and destruction is all that is left for people who live without hope.

You are all the hope of the world as God has breathed his Spirit of life into you. That life is life in the present moment and LIFE for eternity in the presence of him who created, redeemed and sanctified you. God needs your witness and God knows the world needs that witness as well. Go forth remembering what Luke writes in Acts 1:8; “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

To our Lord I say; “My hope is in you.” (Psalm 39:7a)

Pastor Mike

“Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” Matthew 5:44

This summer of uncertainty and unrest has so far served to drive wedges between many of us, be it “social distancing” or racial conflicts or maybe just a general feeling of unease and nervousness that manifests itself in seeing perceived threats all around us. Maybe my “enemy” is the neighbor who lets his dogs out to bark at 5:00AM, or maybe it’s the overworked clerk at the store who is, probably unintentionally, rude to me, or perhaps it’s the man who tries to pass a fake \$20 bill, or maybe it’s the lady in the checkout line behind me who refuses to socially distance herself or wear a mask! In all actuality, none of these people are my true enemies, and therefore should be relatively easy to pray for, perhaps even love in the scriptural sense. However, when Dietrich Bonhoeffer talks about loving one’s enemies, he is talking about seriously dangerous life-threatening enemies. He writes:

“In prayer we go to our enemies, to stand at their side. We are with them, near them, for them before God. Jesus does not promise us that the enemy we love, we bless, to whom we do good, will not abuse and persecute us. They will do so. But even in doing so, they cannot harm and conquer us if we take this last

step to them in intercessory prayer. Now we are taking up their neediness and poverty, their being guilty and lost, and interceding for them before God. We are doing for them in vicarious representative action what they cannot do for themselves. Every insult from our enemy will only bind us closer to God and to our enemy. Every persecution can only serve to bring the enemy closer to reconciliation with God, to make love more unconquerable. How does love become unconquerable? By never asking what the enemy is doing to it, and only asking what Jesus has done. Loving one’s enemies leads disciples to the way of the cross and into communion with the crucified one. Words and thoughts are not enough. Doing good involves all the things of daily life:

“If your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink.” Romans 12:20

“In the same ways that brothers and sisters stand by each other in times of need, bind up each other’s wounds, ease each other’s pain, love of the enemy should do good to the enemy. Where in the world is there greater need, where are deeper wounds and

pain than those of our enemies? Where is doing good more necessary and more blessed than for our enemies?”

“Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.” Luke 6:27 -28

Dietrich then warns that “The Christian cannot simply take for granted the privilege of living among other Christians. Jesus Christ lived in the midst of his enemies. In the end all his disciples abandoned him. On the cross he was alone, surrounded by criminals and the jeering crowds. He had come for the express purpose of bringing peace to the enemies of God. Christians, too, belong not in the seclusion of a cloistered life but in the midst of enemies. There they find their mission, their work.”

But here’s the thing. Very early on as the Nazis were gaining power in Germany, and several of the German Lutheran and Protestant church bodies at the time willingly (even enthusiastically!) acknowledged Hitler as their Fuehrer, Bonhoeffer clearly recognized the Nazi evil intentions and immediately began to speak out in opposition. In fact, he delivered a radio address 2 days after Hitler was “elected” chancellor of Germany, condemning Hitler and the Nazis.

In the face of increasingly frequent and violent Nazi atrocities, against the German Jews in particular, the full extent of which Bonhoeffer learned through his contacts in the Abwehr (the German Military Intelligence Office), he concluded that "the ultimate question for a responsible man to ask is not how he is to extricate himself heroically from the affair, but how the coming generation shall continue to live." Faced with such great evil that even his deeply held pacifist Christian beliefs seemed inadequate, he reluctantly became involved in a conspiracy to assassinate Hitler. He never attempted to justify his action but accepted that he was taking guilt wholly upon himself as he wrote:

"When a man takes guilt upon himself in responsibility, he imputes his guilt to himself and no one else. He answers for it... Before other men he is justified by dire necessity; before himself he is acquitted by his conscience, but before God he hopes only for grace."

In an earlier sermon in 1932, Bonhoeffer said:

"The blood of martyrs might once again be demanded, but this blood, if we really have the courage and loyalty to shed it, will not be innocent, shining like that of the first witnesses for the faith. On our blood lies heavy guilt, the guilt of the unprofitable servant who is cast into

outer darkness."

He was arrested on April 5, 1943, by the Gestapo, most likely due to his outspoken opposition to the Nazi regime and was imprisoned at Tegel prison. He was later transferred to Flossenbürg concentration camp. During his 2 years of imprisonment, he once again demonstrated love for his enemies by ministering regularly to his jailers and guards, as well fellow prisoners, to such an extent that some of the guards offered to help him escape. He declined out of fear for his family's safety.

When Hitler learned the names of the conspirators in the failed July 20, 1944, attempt on his life, a "Peoples Court Martial" was hastily convened on April 8, 1945. Bonhoeffer was tried along with other accused plotters, including former members of the Abwehr, all of whom were quickly found guilty with no witnesses to present any evidence. He offered no defense to the accusations and was hanged on April 9, 1945, just 21 days before Adolf Hitler committed suicide. One of his brothers and 2 brothers-in-law accused and convicted of similar crimes were also hanged at about the same time. We generally aren't faced with such terrible choices that challenge the very foundations of our faith as Bonhoeffer was, although millions of Christians, especially in Africa, the Middle East and parts of Asia, are faced with life and death choices every day. Still, there may be a time when we

must make hard choices and trust in the Grace of God for the outcome.

Please note that the 2003 movie, "Bonhoeffer", is currently available on Amazon Prime Video and is well worth watching.

May God grant us His Grace and Peace especially in these uncertain times.

Hap



Sculpture by Edith Breckwoldt, "The Ordeal", in front of St. Peter's Church, Hamburg, with the inscription, **"No man in the whole world can change the truth. One can only look for the truth, find it and serve it. The truth is in all places."** Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Hap Kretzmann is a member of Our Savior Lutheran and a regular contributor to this newsletter.

Worship Board

Hello to everyone. It's been a while since we have seen all of Our Savior friends. I pray that this finds you all well and that we will soon be worshiping together in some form. My request is that we will be needing people to help prepare communion and serve it (if we are allowed to have it) and also readers for the lessons. If you can help in any way it will be greatly appreciated. Thank you and stay safe.

Linda Whaley

Second Quarter Giving Jug

The Second Quarter Giving Jug monies will be donated to Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI).

LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America).

Lutheran Services in Iowa offers training in parenting, decision making and life skills development. It provides adoption, as well as employment services. The organization also conducts seminars in team building, interpersonal relationships, leadership and communication.

Thank you for your support of Lutheran Services in Iowa for the Second Quarter!



A heartfelt thank you to everyone who sent cards for our 50th wedding anniversary. We had a very small party with immediate family only. It wasn't what we had planned originally, but was made special in a large part because of our church family. We love being "back home" again.

Felicia and Joe Duffy

I want to thank my church family for all the prayers and concerns after my foot surgery. I was just sorry that we were quarantined in for the whole recovery and I never got to show off my boot. Joe still struggles. He has too many recent falls. We still need your prayers. What would we do without all of you. You will never know how much we appreciate your support.

Thank you again.
Joe and Shirley.



LSI's Host Homes Program

Each year, Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) empowers hundreds of Iowans with disabilities. And despite the COVID-19 pandemic, this year is no different. There is no greater joy for us than seeing an individual develop greater independence, find their confidence, and thrive. And through our innovative Host Homes program, LSI has found a new way to lift up our Iowa neighbors and keep them safe in times of crisis.

Through the program, adults with disabilities (or “mentees”) move from a supported community living setting – like a 24-hour, fully staffed home with roommates – and into a private family home with a Host Homes “mentor.” LSI collaborates with the individuals we serve and the contracted mentors to ensure each match is the perfect fit and create a shared living opportunity that is beneficial to mentors and mentees. With the extra safety precautions associated with COVID-19, this program is a safe option where participants are in a home setting, interacting with one trusted mentor instead of several staff members.

LSI is seeking compassionate and dedicated caregivers to join us in the mission. If you have

room in your heart and in your home, being a Host Homes mentor might be for you! Visit LSlowa.org/HostHomes to learn more. If you are interested in supporting crucial programming like LSI's Services for People with Disabilities, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at 563-676-2065 or Deborah.Whitford@LSlowa.org.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at www.LSlowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

We are Still Here: LSI's Services for People with Disabilities

Becky, an LSI Direct Support Professional, supports her client every day through LSI's Services for People with Disabilities. During the COVID-19 crisis, Becky has spent her shifts adding extra safety measures and precautions so she and her client could safely go to the grocery store for food and supplies when the time came.

But her client regularly experiences PTSD, depression, and anxiety, among other mental health conditions, and the isolation and crisis measures around COVID-19 only heightened her experience of these conditions. Becky knew she needed to do something to keep her client feeling comfortable and safe.

During their sessions together, Becky makes sure they practice good hand washing and wear masks. Her client knows she has someone walking alongside her every step of the way, and the client's young daughter found a way to thank Becky for her work: a picture with the words, “I don't like COVID-19, but I'm happy when you come over.”

“I can't imagine not seeing my clients through this,” Becky says. “We are all in this together.”



The Emergency Food Box will continue with its adjusted schedule through the summer months. The open hours are 1:00 - 4:30 Monday through Thursday. If you have friends or family who are struggling due to job loss, reduced hours, or increased food needs due to college students who are now home, please inform them we are here to serve anyone for whatever reason.

Marshall County families can be served once a month. They only need to show a valid ID. The Emergency Food Box address is 109 S. 3rd Street, Marshalltown. Phone number if you have questions is 753-0486.

Beginning June 1, we will begin accepting food donations once again, during open hours. Suggested foods are canned fruit and vegetables, soups, peanut butter, pasta, Mac 'n Cheese, and cereals.

Monetary donations are always appreciated. It is suggested they be sent to Emergency Food Box, PO Box 391, Marshalltown, IA 50158. The Emergency Food Box especially wants to thank the community for its generous support during the past couple of months.

THE WEATHER IS CHANGING NEW ITEMS NEEDED

**Caring Center
132 W. Main St.
Mon. & Wed. 10-1**

We need:

Men's tennis shoes and work boots.
Socks of all sizes
Men's jeans size 38, 40 and 42
Misses jeans in size 4,5,6,7,8

Any household items including:

toasters
coffee pots
silverware
plates
drinking glasses
pots and pans
curtains
sleeping bags (for the homeless)

Donna Patton

JULY BIRTHDAYS!

Austin Ruddick	07/03
John Reardon	07/03
Linda Pepper	07/04
Karen Adams	07/07
Shirley Gregor	07/11
Linda Lindblom	07/11
Dennis Eige	07/12
Lena DeMonte	07/12
Hanah Scott	07/13
Jeff Johnston	07/17
Georgie Whitmore	07/19
John Terry	07/22
Tina Nelson	07/24
Gary Sease	07/25
Steve Freiberg	07/26
David Hicks	07/30

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS!

Gary Sease	07/25
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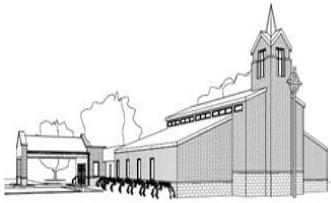
WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES!

Carl & Becky Scaffer	07/01
Jim & Linda Pepper	07/03
Joe & Emily DeMonte	07/08
Bill & Sandra Walters	07/16
Troy & Denise Case	07/20
Connor &	
Lauren McKibben	07/22
Gordon & Mary Miller	07/26
Dean & Denise Stucky	07/27
John & Carol Terry	07/31



Our Savior Lutheran Church
Balance Sheet
as of 05/31/2020

Account Number	Account Name	Amount
Assets		
1000	Checking	\$41,870.80
1005	Debit Card Account	\$627.81
1007	Thrivent Fixed Settlement Option	\$18,011.16
1010	Fern Thompson Scholarship	\$42,325.76
Total Assets		\$102,835.53
Liabilities		
2600	Federal Withholding Taxes Payable	\$236.00
2602	State Withholding Taxes Payable	\$80.20
2604	Social Security Withholding	\$179.44
2606	Medicare Withholding	\$41.92
Total Liabilities		\$537.56
Equity		
3000	General Fund - Fund Balance	\$-757.02
3100	Building Fund - Fund Balance	\$11,992.07
3101	Ice Cream Social Fund Balance	\$1,496.56
3102	Fellowship Fund Balance	\$871.40
3103	Memorial Fund Balance	\$14,283.34
3104	Bible Fund Balance	\$100.00
3105	Thrivent Choice Dollars Fund Balance	\$11,903.54
3108	Riverside Scholorship Fund Balance	\$221.75
3109	Alter Flowers Fund Balance	\$699.39
3111	Fern Thompson Scholarship Fund Balance	\$42,325.76
3112	Bonnie Riemenschneider Fund Balance	\$17,975.18
3114	Quarter 2 Giving Jug Fund Balance	\$15.00
3117	Lenten Offering Fund Balance	\$1,171.00
Total Equity		\$102,297.97
Total Liabilities + Total Equity		\$102,835.53



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Michael Herschberger
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Email: oslpastor@outlook.com

Address Service Requested

We're on the web!

www.oursaviorlutheranmarshalltown.com

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 AM Worship

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Secretary: Carol Fuller
Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Office: 753-4108

Email:
oslmtnow@outlook.com

July
2020