

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
LCMS**

BEND



**AUGUST 2020 PUBLICATION
VOLUME 13 ISSUE 8**

Redeemer *Reflection* Newsletter

Loving People To Christ

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REDEEMER REFLECTION

From the Intentional Interim Pastor's Desk...

BEND

by Reverend Carl Bassett,
Intentional Interim Pastor

*“For we are God’s workmanship, created in
Christ Jesus,
to do good works.”*

Ephesians 2:10

Dear Family in Christ,

Paul wrote the words of our text for this month to his first mission church in Ephesus. As its founding Pastor, he was inspired by God to remind them and us of something very important: we are to render service to our Lord and not sit in idleness! We are to **bend**—incline our very hearts and minds toward the Lord—seeking His guidance and strength.

Jesus stresses the same theme in Matthew’s Gospel, *“just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life for many!”* You see, the very nature of Jesus, as revealed in Holy Scripture, is the example that should be our encouragement to serve others. Acknowledging Christ for who He is and what He has done to redeem us as sinners, we begin to understand His nature and purpose for us. As forgiven people, we have the redemptive purpose of living a life of faithful service for



Jesus and others. Christ’s love for us and our love for Him makes our lives of servanthood possible. Through our loving relationship with Him, we’re excited and willing to live our lives, **bowing** before Him, in faith-filled and loving service.

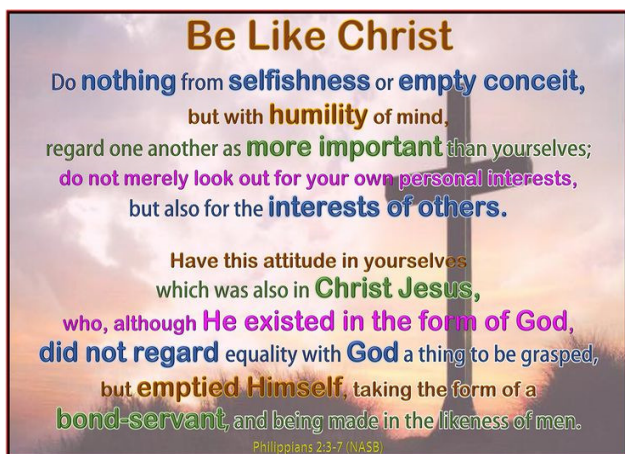
Folks, as God’s people, we are called to love God with all of our hearts, souls, and

minds, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. The key to our service is to live with an attitude that is God-centered. With God as our focus, we will want to love and serve Him and others. Unfortunately, because we are by nature self-centered, our self-centeredness often hinders our interest in serving others. When we succumb to the temptation of putting ourselves first, we place ourselves in the center of life, as we become unaware of and less interested in the needs of others. With a God-centered attitude, we will seek opportunities to serve others who are in need.

Jesus said, *“Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only!”* Our prayer is that God will enable and strengthen us to put Him first, so we can faithfully respond to His call to serve! Live with a servant’s heart—Christ’s heart—beating within you! He crafted us to do just that, each in our own way.

So, as we begin our time together as Intentional Interim Pastor and people, we look forward to the days and months ahead, with the Almighty leading us on an exciting journey. We’re entering a new God-blessed chapter in

the life of Redeemer! May all of us—every man, woman, and child—in whatever ways we can, roll up our sleeves and get to work for the Lord who loved us enough to save us from our sins and make us His adopted, forgiven children. Be a “*doer of the Word and not a hearer only*,” remembering we are “*God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus, to do good works*” for Him, motivated by the love of Christ, as we proclaim His name to all, bringing glory and honor to Him in all that we say and do! ***That’s our mission!***



Have a great month for the Lord, full of many blessings and opportunities to serve Him! See you in Church!

Peace and Love, in Christ our Savior,

Pastor Bassett

RIGHT BEHIND YOU!

by Peggy Bennitt

We all are getting older, but what wonderful young people we have coming up behind us! They may have new ideas, but in God’s work, the basics are always the same! How cool is that? God is always God, and His Word is always up-to-date. Our lives change but He does not.

Pick up His Word and it’s new each day. He speaks from it and it’s all about the “here and

now” as well as the “there and then.” Our biggest problem is getting over ourselves; at least it is for me. Remembering to mentor those younger men and women is the hard part. And we seniors need that mentoring and support as well at times.

Thank God for God! He gives us what we need each time we need it, to encourage those who are right behind us. When that little one says, “I’m right behind you, Papa.” Or that teen says, “I don’t get it.” Be kind and gentle and spend yourself, your time, on these important saints of the next generations.

I need to always keep this truth in front of me: It’s not about me. It’s about Him and His kingdom! And we get to do this! Now, how do we do that when the world drags us down? That’s never easy, but we give our whiny selves to Him and say, “Make me better for Your use, Lord.” He’ll figure it out when we can’t.

ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE CANCELLED

The Annual Redeemer Rummage Sale has been cancelled for this year. Because of the need to be in close contact to set up for and serve customers during the sale, and the difficulties involved in sustaining distancing throughout such an event, we have decided to forego the sale in 2020.

Next year’s sale will depend on the health requirements and governmental status of the pandemic at that time. We are sorry for any inconvenience this has caused, but **please do not bring in any more items for the sale** as we have very limited storage and no clear plans for next year.

Thank you all for your cooperation and for the support given throughout the past years of this event.



AUGUST

Samantha Anderson	08/02
Blair Bennitt	08/02
Abigail Bahr	08/03
Kevin Herrick	08/03
Janet Gamet	08/04
Bob Rice	08/07
Andy Biegner	08/08
Ron Rockwell	08/09
Kay Burger	08/11
Craig Britton	08/12
David McFarland	08/12
Elsie Lyn Walsh	08/14
Dana Farley	08/15
Fran Althouse	08/19
Michelle Potter	08/19
Ron Ellison	08/21
Trudy Gatz	08/24
Nelda Hoffer	08/24
Madison Brandt	08/25
Caeley Schnebelt	08/25
Allan Arvy	08/28
Stephanie Herrick	08/30
Sophia Kane	08/31



Due to frequently changing health notifications and guidelines, the printed calendar for this month is limited. We pray more events and activities will be forthcoming in

August, God willing. Please see our website at redeemerjackson.org for online services and resources, and updates on upcoming activities and services as they become available. *Stay safe in our Lord's hands. May He continue to bless us all!*



TOPIC FOR SEPTEMBER

The topic for September is *Worry*. The *Reflection* newsletter is meant to help us reflect and share our Lord through the daily life and actions of His people, particularly with our activities and worship services here at Redeemer. What can you share that will show God working in your life or reflect Him to those around you?



Please consider sharing personal stories of how you have seen or felt God working in your life, especially during these unusual circumstances associated with our time of “sheltering in place” during this pandemic.

Articles on the topics of Family, Prayer, and Outreach are always welcome, as are other aspects of the Christian life. Please also share situations that can or have influenced your faith and how we can worship Him with and through our lives in this time and place.

Send articles or information to bennitt49@yahoo.com, by the 15th of each month, to be included in the following month's newsletter. This is the most easily accessed means of getting your information to me

especially now. I appreciate and consider all submissions.

ROOTED IN FAITH, BEND

by Peggy Bennitt

When I hear the word “bend,” I picture suppleness...limber, fluid, graceful movement. Picture a willow swaying in the breeze on a windy spring morning, bending to allow the wind to flow through its branches and pass on to caress and rustle through tiny fresh blades of new grass.

Bending is often a protective process, keeping an object or person safe from injury or destruction. To bend can be either a negative or positive experience, depending on the circumstances. If we bend to pressure to ignore the rights of others, the negative consequences can be disastrous. When we bend to accept and learn new fitness or health practices, it can be a very beneficial and positive skill.

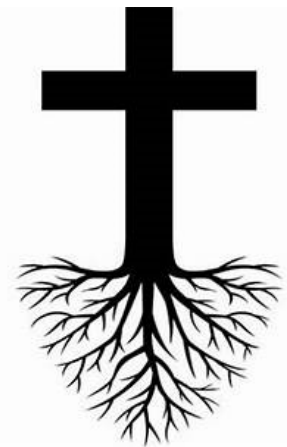
In nature, a storm may rage, and a tree is uprooted or snapped off and blown away. A windy day can leave behind twisted branches or broken limbs from an otherwise healthy-looking tree. Often the root system is at fault when a tree is damaged. If the roots aren't deeply entrenched in the



soil, or are shallow and just surface-deep, the tree has no support to keep it upright or safely anchored in the earth during a storm. Or, if limbs have been injured or broken, they will wither and die; drying up and becoming stiff, unable to give or bend to accommodate the vagaries of changing weather.

A tree that has been properly watered and fertilized can generally withstand windy days and stormy weather because the roots grow thick and deep, and give hidden but secure support to the trunk and body of the tree above ground. Its branches and limbs will be supple with the juices of life and able to bend to accommodate weather changes encountered throughout its life. If we don't carefully nurture our faith in Christ by being rooted in His Word, we won't be limber with the life juices of faith in Him, and won't be able to “bow in or bend” as the winds of earthly life blow. How will we be able to “give” under the heavy weight of grief or stress, or compromise and bend a bit to investigate a new perspective of faith, if we can't be flexible and nonjudgmental like Jesus was? If we aren't grounded, rooted in Jesus, we will break and be useless because we're too rigid or inflexible to weather the squalls of life in this fallen world.

There have been times in my life when I've been that trembling, fluttering twig dying on the end of a twisted, broken branch, buffeted by a bitterly strong wind. Anyone else been there? Recently? Or maybe a long time ago? Jesus too knows how that feels. He also knows how to struggle through the bitterness and the disappointments of life. In Mark 14:



“My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death,” He said to His disciples. “Stay here and keep watch.”

Then a bit later:

“Are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray so you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing but the body is weak.”

The disciples failed their Master but later, with renewed and nurtured faith, were the means of spreading the Gospel throughout the world. Without roots of faith, any wind of dissent or controversy, any storms of disbelief that blow up, will uproot our faith and we will wither and die. That is not what God expects of His children. We are brothers and sisters of Jesus, and we are held to a higher standard than those around us who do not yet know Him.

Rooted and nourished by faith, we can bend, but still remain strong through the storms of life, a living example for others.



CORONAVIRUS DIARY 15: Wearing a Mask

by Kristin Rathje, guest writer, shares selections / excerpts from her Blog, *Next Chapter*; used with permission.

<https://kristinsnextchapter.com/author/krathje66/>

I've been back in the office for two weeks now. I'd been working from my office in our little house by the river for almost three months when our company determined that we should be back in our physical space, so I packed up all my materials — laptop, auxiliary screen, student files, and other materials, and lugged them to my car, drove them across town, hauled them up two flights of stairs, and started to acclimate.

The first couple of days were especially stressful. I don't know if it was the daily screening paperwork that I had to fill out every morning, the taking of my temperature, the putting away of all those materials (which I still haven't finished), the spontaneously self-generating list of regular tasks that didn't pause for a second as I learned all the new protocols, or the fact that I now have to wear a mask.

Of course I've been wearing a mask for months. It started in the early days when the only time I left our home was to go to the grocery store. I made a few masks following a simple pattern and using some leftover fabric I had here at home...

On my weekly treks out, I not only donned a mask, but I wore latex gloves. I carefully procured my groceries, following arrows on the floor and being careful to keep six feet away from others. Back in my car, I would remove the mask and gloves, sanitize my hands, and then drive home where my husband would receive and wash all the items I purchased while I stripped and headed straight to the shower. In fact, we've kept this routine all these months. We've developed quite a system.

We've adopted these behaviors to stay safe — to keep ourselves from getting sick.

In those early days, I probably wore the mask for a grand total of 3-5 hours per *week*, but now that I'm back in the office, I am supposed to wear it for 8 hours a *day*!

I get it. **Mask wearing is very important.** The data shows us that our chances of spreading or contracting Covid-19 are greatly reduced by social distancing and wearing a mask.



So, I'm wearing one, but let me just say that it is challenging!

Probably the biggest reason I find face mask wearing challenging at work is that it covers my face and most of my facial expressions. I am an educator, and right now I see most of my students online. Working with students virtually has its own challenges, not least of which is the ability to communicate clearly. Since all the students can see of me is from the torso up, I am continually checking to be sure that I am centered on the screen, that my student can hear me clearly, and that I am allowing appropriate time to hear his or her response. I rely heavily on facial expression and hand gestures such as “thumbs up” and “high five” to communicate encouragement. Now that I am in the center and required to wear a mask, I lose my smile and the student’s ability to use the visual support of watching my mouth to understand what I am saying.



(You’d be surprised how much we rely on this.)



My employer has done a pretty decent job of separating staff members from one another. I am sharing a room with one coworker, but we have a divider between our work spaces and we give each other a wide berth when we are coming and going. Additionally, we each wear a mask for most of the day. However, we have both determined that we will remove our masks when working with our most severe/youngest students for whom the mask seems a distraction or hindrance to instruction. I am fine with this because my coworker and I have a strong relationship and we are both communicating about the ways in which we are continuing to limit our exposure to others outside of work...

I also dash outside once in the morning, once in the afternoon, and over my lunch hour to take off the mask and breathe some fresh air because I am just tired of wearing it! It fogs up my

glasses, makes me feel hot, and smashes my hairstyle.

Wearing a face mask is annoying, but I am going to keep wearing one.

Why? Because in my county, 37 new cases were reported yesterday. Michigan’s seven-day average is 508. The United States’ rate of infection and cumulative death count still far outpaces any country, even adjusted for population, and though people are still arguing about whether Covid-19 can be transmitted by people who are asymptomatic (or pre-symptomatic), each day we learn of more people who were infected because they gathered in large groups and chose not to wear masks.

Over 135,000 people have died in the United States in the last few months, and we have been given a few simple instructions for diminishing further spread and death: 1) We should wash our hands, 2) we should stay away from people, and 3) we should wear a mask.

It’s really not a big ask.

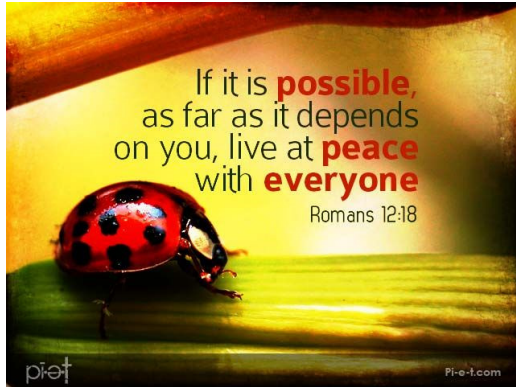
Is it annoying? Yes.

Would I prefer not to? Yes.

But am I willing to take one for the team and do my best to stop the further spread of the coronavirus while thousands of medical staff are doing their best to keep people alive while wearing not only a mask, but often a shield, and all manner of PPE? while thousands of researchers, clad in hazmat suits, are working around the clock to find a vaccine, a treatment, a cure? Yes.

I’m willing to be a little annoyed — a little uncomfortable — for the sake of keeping myself and others safe. And what if wearing a mask turns out to be ineffective? I won’t mind, because at the very least, my choice to wear a mask signals to those around me that I am willing to care for them, to keep any possible infection to myself, and to join a united effort against this pandemic.

I think that’s worth something.



WE ARE SO BLESSED!

Do you receive Mr. Craig's tri-weekly Devotionals? How about Ms. Kimber's *Lead In* series of family devotions and activities for your home? These are excellent and painstakingly compiled resources to help us in our spiritual growth especially during this time of sheltering-at-home.

There is something for everyone in these two resources, available through our website at redeemerjackson.org. Age-appropriate Bible studies, songs, and activities give each family/person a variety to choose what best fits the ages and stages in their home. Pastor Bassett also provides worship services weekly for those of us who are worshipping at home for medical reasons or simply to further ensure the safety of our families. Check out the website for more options for worship and Bible study available online.

Hard copies of the *Portals of Prayer* are available for pickup at the church. These are also available in large print editions. We are blessed with these resources for feeding our faith, so that we too can be a blessing to those around us.

WELCOME HOME!

Redeemer Lutheran Church is now open for Sunday worship. We have three (3) services

each Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11:00 a.m. Communion will be celebrated on 2nd and 4th Sundays at *ALL* services, with communion also offered on months that have a 5th Sunday.

We are limiting attendance to 50 people or under at each service, to allow for safe physical distancing in our sanctuary, and for comfortable entrance to and exiting from our facility. Please sign up online at redeemerjackson.org, or, if you do not have access to the internet, please call the church office at 517-750-3100 to sign up for the service you wish to attend.

Please wear a face mask, until further notice, while attending services with us at Redeemer. This is a protective device for all those around you; a respectful acknowledgment of the rights of others to remain protected and safe in our building. Between services, all areas used will be disinfected, including restroom facilities, elevator buttons and rails, door-openers and latches, etc. to protect all parishioners. Please exit the building at a reasonable pace, so that cleaning can commence and cleaned areas will not be re-infected before the next service attendees arrive.

Thank you to all our staff, leadership, and members who are helping to make all these extra safety steps happen smoothly and efficiently without too much discomfort for our faith family of worshippers.

God bless you all as we worship together; pray together that our merciful Lord give us peace and joy as we are able to worship together once again. May He bless our worship and guide us through the next few months as we wade through the many new rules and guidelines to a safer tomorrow.

HELL-BENT ON ICE CREAM

by Kimber Walsh

I was recently so determined to get something, that I didn't account for the possible bad outcomes. It was hot and I was hungry, so I

wanted ice cream. The scoop was dirty and in the running dishwasher, so ignoring the cautionary voice of my mother telling me not to ever use silverware to scoop ice cream, I did it anyway. It was frozen hard and the spoon bent a little under the pressure. Though I bent the spoon back to “normal” (not to mention the fact that it is MY silverware that got bent and not my mom’s) I felt guilty that my craving overtook me knowing better than to use a silverware spoon to scoop ice cream.



The expression hell-bent resonates similarly. We are so determined to do something at all costs regardless of knowing that the outcome might be bad. We want it. We don’t care about anything else. Our sinful nature makes us hell-bent. We want to do that which we know we should not do, and we don’t care if it ends up badly for us, or someone else, in the process.

We are hell-bent to stay out of trouble, so we lie. We are hell-bent on a certain outcome, so we cheat or use dishonest practices. Frankly, we are hell-bent on ourselves and whatever we want at the moment because we are greedy and selfish. I often think if I were in charge of ranking the sins, that’s the one I’d put at the top—selfishness. (Yes, I know that sins are not ranked and yes, I know that even if they were I’m not the person who would get that job.)

So hell-bent was I on having ice cream and satiating my sweet tooth, that I bent my silverware. So hell-bent are we on our own selves that we bend and break whatever might get in our way to get what we want. It’s sin. It’s ugly. And it bends us toward hell itself.

Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ that He bent our trajectory in a new direction! He



intervened by His death on the cross and resurrection that we are no longer hell-bent, but we are heaven-bound. On our own, we could not get there. If you looked at the evidence of our lives, we could not get there. But God has gifted us salvation itself. Not because we deserve it, but because He saw our need for a Savior. He doesn’t want to let our hell-bent hearts have their way.

ARE YOU READY TO PRAY?

Retrieved on July 17, 2020 from:

<https://www.harvestprayer.com/are-you-ready-to-pray-a-spiritual-checklist/>

Before launching into intercession for others, corporate prayer, or even personal prayer, here are some powerful questions to utilize as a way to examine the condition of your heart so that God will hear and respond!

Spend some time meditating on these scriptures as you answer the questions:

† Have I confessed all known sin?

Isaiah 59:1-2 says, “*Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor His ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God: your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.*” “*If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His word has no place in our lives*” (1 John 1:10).

† Are all my relationships with others made right?

“*For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.*” (Matthew 6:14-15).

† Are you seeking His will in all things?

“*This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us – whatever we*

ask – we know that we have what we asked of Him” (1 John 5:14-15).

† **Are you seeking to glorify God above all things?** “And I will do whatever you ask in My name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in My name, and I will do it” (John 14:13-14).

† **Are you depending on the Holy Spirit’s guidance?**
“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God’s will” (Romans 8:26-27).

† **Are you trusting God in spite of what seems to be?**
“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

† **Will you praise God no matter what?**
“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28). “Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

BENDING THE BOW

“He trains my hands for battle; my arms can bend a bow of bronze”

Psalm 18:34, NIV

An elderly saint in our midst spoke to a few of us who serve the congregation regarding prayer this week and it caused a fire already lit in me to...well let us just say, it won't go out any time soon. God be praised for this dear brother. I am careful with the Word of God. There is no greater treasure, and nothing should be handled with such care. In my teaching, I do not always get things right, I am sure. So, I want to give this “heads-up” as we look at the preceding text. The text itself is not about the subject of the article as it sits in the Bible. But my mind was drawn to this text because of the relationship of a warrior to the subject at hand. I ask for your indulgence.

We all are familiar, I think, with the imagery St. Paul places before us in Ephesians, the sixth chapter, regarding the **Full Armor of God**. Prayer is included as an element binding all the



armor on the body of the soldier for the greatest effect. And in the Psalm [at the beginning of this article], we have the same type of preparation. All of that to say this: WE MUST PRAY

TOGETHER. I realize there are not too many articles that I write where I do not mention this. But I believe it. God prepares and strengthens us for the battle and many of us never get to the battlefield, let alone the front lines of combat. Now please do not take that as an accusation that I think we do not pray. But there is an element to prayer, corporate prayer or praying together, that I think many Christians do not appreciate. And I think that as liturgical Lutherans who DO pray together in worship, we tend to think, “Oh we prayed together on Sunday.” That is not what I am advocating here, and “bending the bow of bronze” may be aided by strength in numbers and so the outcome of the battle enhanced.

We are at war, beloved. It is bloody, foul, and deadly. If you do not realize that, then there is the proof you have not entered the fray. As mentioned above, this saintly gentleman from our own number stoked the flames and it was the flames of desire for seeing our congregation grow in this most needful practice: praying together. As we walk through this season of looking at ourselves in assessing direction for calling a shepherd, let us realize together that our foe does not want us to have one, let alone the right one. And the enemy of our souls would like nothing more than for us to be derailed in the process. I want to challenge you once again to ask our Lord if perhaps you might take a new or renewed place of leadership in the prayer life of Redeemer. We are not starting a program or new ministry, but if you have this “shared



as the Lord organically changes the atmosphere

burn,” then grab someone and say I need someone to pray with. Then those two grab another. We can watch

of our congregation from sheep to “Battle Lambs.” Whether two or twenty, let us refresh our desire to serve under our Commander as He teaches us all to “bend the bow of bronze.”

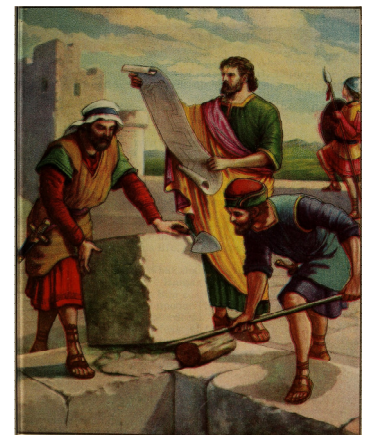
JESUS AND HIS APOSTLES SET THE TONE FOR DEALING WITH SOCIETAL WRONGS

We must not talk to people about injustice until we’ve first spoken to God about our righteousness. Excerpt from article by Paul Louis Cole (President of the Christian Men’s Network Worldwide)

At the core of Jesus’ life and ministry was freedom for the oppressed, justice for injustice, grace in the face of inhumanity. Luke recorded in chapter 19 that Jesus wept over Jerusalem because of our spiritual ignorance. But in Luke chapter 13, Jesus wept because of institutional injustice.

We need Jesus...we are responsible to bring the message of Christ into the mess of injustice. Love will win, but only if aggressively applied.

When Nehemiah discovered that Jerusalem was destroyed, he first repented for his nation, his brethren. He hadn’t caused it. He didn’t even live there. He was a slave 1700 miles away. But he accepted responsibility. That’s a strong man. He prayed for forgiveness and righteousness to prevail. And then, he did something about it. He acted.



In the same spirit as Nehemiah, I repent for the sins of my nation. I pray God will heal our land, and the Cross of Christ will shadow us with a shroud of grace...until men live in harmony as brothers (Psalm 133:1)...

I've made more mistakes than I care to remember. I've spoken out of haste or emotion or misunderstanding and caused unintended consequences for others. In so doing, I damaged my own ability to speak into their lives.

But my biggest regret may be having *not* spoken up when I should have, or having spoken up when I shouldn't have—and not knowing the difference.

Today is the day Christians must speak up. We must teach and train people to exercise mutual respect. ... We must provide hope to weary hearts. Hope is alive, Hope has a name, Hope's name is Jesus.



“TO MASK OR NOT TO MASK?”

Recommendations for Gathered Saints in Public
Worship, Prolegomena
Michigan District, LCMS
July 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to harass our nation and world. It has disrupted business, entertainment, social and private lives, and the life and ministry of God's Church. Pastors and congregations have learned some new ways of receiving God's gifts of Word and Sacrament, from live-streaming worship and Bible study, to parking lot Communion, to additional in-person worship services to enable proper social distancing. We have even discussed the question of whether or not we should sing hymns.

Many or most of our congregations' facilities across the Michigan District are open again for public worship. That is great news! We are able,

once again, to gather in God's House to receive the Word and Sacraments face to face. And perhaps there hangs the issue: We may need to define “face to face” differently for the foreseeable future.

We would refer everyone again to the article on the Michigan District website, *The Return of the Gathered Saints From Pandemic Exile*. It was written to enable congregational leaders to engage with important questions in order to discover important answers in each unique context (area of the state, updated Executive Orders from the Governor or CDC, population density in the sanctuary, the changing impact of the pandemic, etc.). With that said, we offer the following guidance to the pastors and congregations of the Michigan District, LCMS, regarding the wearing of face masks in public worship:



1. We affirm that *all our actions* as Christians are intended to serve the God who has made and called us His own through Christ, and also to serve our neighbor in Jesus' name.
2. We affirm that wearing a face mask during a pandemic is *not* an infringement on our religious liberty, nor does it hinder the exercise of our Christian Faith.
3. We affirm that wearing a face mask is not intended to protect us from infection from our neighbor, but rather to protect our neighbor from inadvertently being infected by us.
4. We therefore recommend the following:
 - a. Face masks should be worn by all participants throughout our time of public worship in addition to appropriate

social distancing, with the following exceptions:

- 1) Infants and small children.
 - 2) Those who have specific chronic respiratory distress.
 - 3) Those actively reading or preaching from the lectern or pulpit.
- b. Face masks should be worn by choral ensemble or praise team members who are in close proximity to one another and not able to exercise social distancing while assisting in worship.
- c. Face masks should be worn by the pastor and assisting ministers when near the elements for the Lord's Supper. (Example: The Prayers and The Words of Institution)
- d. Face masks should be worn during the distribution of the Lord's Supper except when actually receiving the elements of the Sacrament.

NOTE:

The previous affirmations and guidance are offered in response to questions received by our Michigan District staff and leaders. Wearing a face mask is not an issue of doctrine or practice.

However, we do believe it is an issue of public witness and Christian concern for our neighbor, whether he/she is seated in the adjoining pew in the sanctuary or a stranger at the grocery store.



Plant a Tree!



You will need:

- ♪ seeds from a grapefruit, orange, lemon or tangerine
- ♪ a flower pot
- ♪ soil

How to:

Soak the seeds in water overnight.

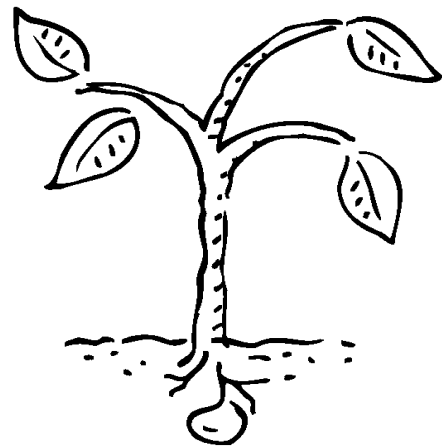
Fill the flower pot with soil. Plant 3 or 4 seeds about half an inch deep.

Keep soil moist. Water once or twice a week.

Keep pot in a warm, bright place.

The seedlings will sprout in about 8 weeks.

Leave only the strongest plant in the pot. It will grow into a little tree with dark, shiny leaves.



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

August 2020
Communion Service—C

1

2

Divine Service
8:00 a.m.

Divine Service
9:30 a.m.

Divine Service
11:00 a.m.

3

**Prayer Chapel—
Hour of Prayer**
8:00 a.m.

4

5

6

7

8

9

Divine Service—C
8:00 a.m.

Divine Service—C
9:30 a.m.

Divine Service—C
11:00 a.m.

10

**Prayer Chapel—
Hour of Prayer**
8:00 a.m.

11

12

13

14

15

16

Divine Service
8:00 a.m.

Divine Service
9:30 a.m.

Divine Service
11:00 a.m.

17

**Prayer Chapel—
Hour of Prayer**
8:00 a.m.

18

**Ministry Council
Meeting**
6:30 p.m.

19

20

21

22

23/30

Divine Service—C
8:00 a.m.

Divine Service—C
9:30 a.m.

Divine Service—C
11:00 a.m.

24/31

**Prayer Chapel—
Hour of Prayer**
8:00 a.m.

25

**Leadership Board
Meeting**
6:30 p.m.

26

27

28

29