

Looking to the Interests of Others

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Philippians 2: 1-4

Greetings in Christ!

I hope that you are enjoying this summer and enjoying some more freedom as restaurants, stores and public attractions start to open up and we start to move toward a new normal. As places begin to open I have observed that our post-lock down society seems to have found a new point of conflict, specifically, the precautions we need to take regarding Covid-19. Many places are requiring masks in order for you to enter, and yet the wearing of masks seems to have become a flash point around the issues of personal freedoms. On this topic I think that St. Paul has a point. In his letter to the Philippians Paul is addressing church conflict, people putting their own interests above the interests of the congregation at large and so in an effort to unite them he writes “...*having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.*”

Paul is trying to get the congregation in Philippi to understand that as followers of Christ, we are changed and empowered to let go of our own interest for the purpose of caring for our neighbor; in fact, we are not empowered to do this but we are called to do this—to make sacrifices in order to serve others. The wearing of masks and observance of social distancing has been shown to be the most effective way to prevent the spread of Covid-19. It is not completely, 100% effective, but it is certainly safer than gathering in close quarters with no protection. This is known. Therefore, as Christ-minded people, we must look to the best interest of our neighbors; our elderly neighbors, our immune-compromised neighbors, all of our neighbors and we must do what is not in our own interest but in the interest of the most vulnerable among us.

Wearing a mask is not just a political issue, or a science issue, it is a faith issue as well. If we confess that we are saved in order to love and serve our neighbor then in this time of pandemic we must do what we can to protect one another in love. This means following CDC guidelines to keep the most vulnerable among us safe and healthy. As your Pastor I promise I will do what I am required to do in order to keep you safe. I will wear my mask when in the presence of other people, I will keep my distance and I will wipe down the surfaces that I use. My prayer is that we all will do what is necessary to keep our neighbors safe.

Finally, take heart. I know that it is difficult to navigate this new normal, it is painful to continue to be apart and to not be able to gather together in faith. But this too will pass, God will carry us through and we will be together in person again. Until that time, let us care for one another, work toward peace and justice for the most vulnerable, care for our own souls and, most importantly, let us have hope in Christ that we will persevere and let us look forward in hope to the day when we can gather together in worship. Amen.

May the Peace of Christ, which passes all understanding, surround you in the name of Christ Jesus.

Pastor Jess

LIVESTREAM SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Until further notice, services and activities are online.

Sunday Services, 10:00 -11:00 am via YouTube link provided by Pastor Jess
WELCA Bible Study, 10:00 -11:00 am via Zoom
Happy Hour with PJ, 7:30 - 8:30 pm via Zoom

NEW WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL SERIES

Dwelling in the Word

Introducing *Dwelling in the Word*, a new weekly devotional series.

A short, devotional video based on the reading for the day will be posted by Pastor Jess, Monday - Thursday, on Facebook Live.

Tune in to watch your daily dose of scripture with *Dwelling in the Word*.

BAPTISM



Kyle Evan Hurt

Kyle Evan Hurt,
son of Tessa and John Hurt,
will be welcomed into our faith family on July 5th, 2020
by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.
We welcome Kyle, and promise to surround him with our
prayers and faith. Amen.

SUMMER HOURS NOW THROUGH LABOR DAY



New Summer Hours!

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Beginning Memorial Day week, May 25, 2020, —
Ending on Labor Day, Sept. 7, 2020.

Be aware that though Deb is still working in the office, during the Covid-19 crisis, the outer doors are remaining locked. If anyone should need to come to church during open hours, Deb will need to be notified ahead of time to let them in.

GARDENERS NEEDED

Calling All Gardeners!

Our gardens, rock beds and landscaping are scruffy, unkempt and downright weedy.

We Need Your Help!

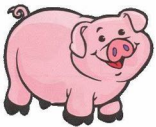
Please donate an hour or two of your spare time to help with weeding and/or trimming. Show up anytime! Make an appointment! It's up to you. Arrangements can be made for access to the building for clean-up purposes.



Contact Jessica Underhill if you have questions, wish to make an appointment, or arrange to have the building open.

616-848-9367 or
brianjessunderhill@yahoo.com

GOD'S GLOBAL BARNYARD



**Thank you for your donations
to God's Global Barnyard!**



GSLC has purchased some exciting animals through ELCA's Good Gifts program to benefit people in need all over the world. What animals did we get? Your contributions totaled \$290 which allowed us to purchase...

3 piglets--piglets are very helpful because they produce manure which fertilizes crops. Piglets can also be brought to Market for a good price.

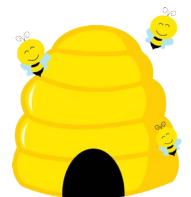
2 goats--goats provide milk and can survive in harsh climates. Families can use the milk not only to feed and nourish their family but also to make products, such as cheese, to sell at market for income.

4 clutches of chicks--these chicks will grow up to produce eggs, an important source of nutrition and of income.

3 Honeybee hives--honeybees are exceptionally important to growing crops because they act as pollinators. They also produce honey and beeswax; two things that can be sold at market for income.



Thank you for your generosity!



LOWERING OUR MORTGAGE PAYMENTS

We are close to our goal!

Our contributions to date are **\$27,355**.

Only \$7,645 left to go.

We are more than halfway to our goal of \$35,000.

Our current principal owed is \$245,000. If we can lower our principal owed before Sept. 15, 2020 we could decrease our monthly payment for the next 5 years. **This may reduce our loan payment to \$40,404 annually. A big drop over the \$51,096 we are paying currently.**

The new interest rate will be set on September 15th. The monthly payments will be set based on our principal owed on September 15. Sunday, September 6, will be the last collection taken and processed before September 15. All funds for this project must be received by Sunday, September 6, 2020. Any amount will help the cause. As always, please put 10C-P on any contributions.

If you have any questions please contact Dennis Willaman, at 616-335-2447 or by email at willamandennis780@gmail.com.



PASTOR JESS' VACATION INFORMATION



Pastor Jessica will be on vacation July 22-July 30, Worship for July 26th will be pre-recorded.

If you have any Pastoral Care needs, please contact Council President Jessica Underhill @ 616-848-9367.

WELCA Bible Study and Happy Hour with PJ are cancelled for July 22nd and July 29th

There will be no Dwelling in the Word videos during this time.

PASTOR'S LIMITED GATHERINGS SCHEDULE

Monday: 10:00 am - 3:30 pm —in the office

Tuesday: 10:00 am - 3:30 pm —in the office

Wednesday: 10:00 - 11:00 am —Welca Bible Study via Zoom

11:00 am - 3:30 pm —in the office

7:30 - 8:30 pm —Happy Hour with PJ via Zoom

Thursday: 10:00 am - 3:30 pm —in Holland, available by appointment.

Pastor Jessica is available Monday - Friday

via phone, text, email and Facebook messenger.

Phone: (616) 403-4660

Email: pj.gslc@gmail.com



July

Birthdays

Isaac McCaughan 1
Brian Underhill 14
Deb Ludwig 15
Bonita Zielke 18
Nathan McCaughan 20
Tammy Walters 22
Rose Heckel 23
Kelly Sauer 24
Julie Wolff 27
Larry Heckel 28



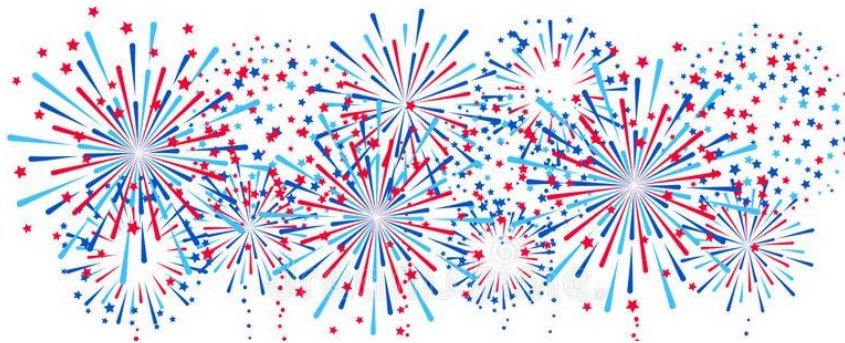
Anniversaries

Julia Wentz & Chris Simoni 4
Mike & Vicki Russell 12
Rob & Lynda Parrott 24
Patricia & Russell Bradfield 30

IN OUR PRAYERS

In Our Prayers...

- **Congratulations:** Jim Dyke has a new great grandson born to granddaughter Jill & Jordan Berens May 27, 2020 at 34 wks. Cedar Floyd Berens was 4 lbs. 7 oz.
- **Sympathies:** Our sympathies to the friends and family of Joan Jose who passed away Friday, June 19, 2020
- **Healing/Peace:** Patricia Bradfield, Merle Malmquist, Rick Artwick (Dawn Sjaarda's uncle), Lucas Barton, Zach Bergland (Beckers' nephew), Bryan Blank, Olivia Boomershine (friends of the Norvells, youngest daughter of Ross and Kelly), Cassie, (friend of Chris Manzo), Kody De Haan, Carol Essig (Bret D'Agostino's aunt), Judy Forsten (Marijo's Sister), Alyssa Gorraiz, Kate Haaser (daughter of Rose Heckel), Erlene Haskin, Hilda (member of Emanuel A. de D.), Jared P-H, (Dawn Sjaarda's cousin) JM & RM (friends of Sjaardas), Joan Jose, Julie and family (friend of Dawn S.), Cathy Kelly, Brandi Ketchum (friend of Underhills), Hillarie, Gabe and baby boy Kinne; Andrew Linn (friends of the Beckers), Isaac Ludwig (grandson of Deb & Tom Ludwig), Helen Lynam (friend of the Beckers), Bob Lutz, Joan Jose, George Preisler and wife Donna (former members), Roland Rivera, Richard Russell (Mike's brother), Katherine Slee (friend of Beckers), Terry Speese (Friend of Pastor Jess), Christopher St. John (Son of Bonita Zielke), Roland Walters, (Father-in-law of Tammy), Jon Wiening, Bonita Zielke.
- **Prayers for Our World:** We remember in our prayers the victims of the 16th St. apartment fires; those in Michigan and around the country who are dealing with floods and severe storms during this time; families who have lost loved ones due to Covid-19; and families affected by the economic downturn as a result of Covid-19.
- **Assisted Living/Nursing Home/Homebound:** Allan Malan, (Eve's dad), Ruth Bergan (Corinne Becker's rel.).
- **Healthy Pregnancy:** Hillarie Kinne (Parrott's daughter), Samantha Wagner (Patricia's granddaughter-in-law), Myariah Vixayphone, (Som's granddaughter).
- **Serving Our Country:** John Bounthapanya (Som's nephew), Kody DeHaan, Steve Dyke, Ben Johnson (Parrotts' nephew), Cortney and Konstantin Ivanov (Gigi Howard's daughter and son-in-law), Kayla Kleinjans (Stan & Debbie's granddaughter), Alex Miller, Andrew Wagner (Patricia Bradfield's grandson), Zachery Wiesner (Gigi Howard's son-in-law).
- **Prayer Partners:** Messiah Lutheran Church, Rev. Jeff Bonn, Roscommon; Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Rev. Nan Dehnke, Rose City; Ascension Lutheran Church, Rev. Julie Bailey, Saginaw; Faith Lutheran Church, Rev. John Soyster, Saginaw; Pacifica Synod, Bishop Andrew A. Taylor, Santa Ana, CA.



CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Church Council Members:

Ellie Buggeln	(616) 399-0591; elliebuggeln@gmail.com
Elliott Eisaman	(716) 785-0918 elliott.eisaman@gmail.com
Debbie Kleinjans	(616) 88607918 deborahkleinjans@gmail.com
Chris Manzo	(616) 405-3048 chrismanzo@outlook.com
Jessica Underhill	(616) 848-9367 brianjessunderhill@yahoo.com