



Thoughts and Reflections from the Pastor

"Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

-Lamentations 3:21-23

I thought it was appropriate to start off my article with a word of hope. It has been a hard few months, with COVID, isolation, fires, and smoke. I pray for each of you and hope that you are able to find encouragement in the beautiful falls days we are able to enjoy.

My article this week is mostly informational because I am finding that one of the frustrations of not seeing you all is that it is harder to get information to you in a reliable way. I would ask that if anyone asks you what's going on at the church, encourage them to check out the newsletter, or better yet, call the church. Things are changing pretty quickly as we regularly have to make adjust-

ments to plans in light of all the worlds uncertainty.

The first bit of information I want to share is my office hours. I am in the office almost every *Monday and Tuesday from 9 to 5*. Occasionally something will come up and I will be out to a meeting or event, but I try to be available at the church on those days. If you stop by the church or call and I am not there, please just have Anna pass on a message to me and I will call you back. Wednesday and Thursdays I tend to have a lot of Zoom meetings, so I might not get back to you immediately, but as soon as I can I will give you a call.

Another bit of information I want to share is about our Adult Ed classes. I announced on Sunday that they will be noon every Sunday (unless otherwise announced) and Thursdays at noon. These classes will be in person here at the church (please wear your mask) but unfortunately are limited to 9 people. So if you would like to join one of these groups, please call or email me or the office to sign up for a spot. These classes will be a mix

of Bible study, book study, and theological/current affairs discussions.

The last bit of information I want to share is about the wildfire recovery fund the Oregon Synod has put together. A number of you have asked me how we might be able to help, and up until now my response has been to wait and see. Now the Oregon Synod has put together a fund that will thoughtfully support those in need during this ongoing disaster. So if you are moved to help, please check out the Oregon Synod fund at oregon-synod.org, or follow the link on our website peaceinpendleton.org. Thank you so much.

I remain grateful for your ongoing support and care for Peace during this time of Pandemic and disaster. May God bless you as you have blessed others.

In Christ,
Pastor Travis Larsen

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Let your faith be bigger than your fear.

Council minutes September 14, 2020 6:03pm

Present: Pastor Travis, Doug DeBok Janet Wood, Linda Gustin, Dena Summerfield, Kevin Hale, Gayla Eckis, Mark Stansbury and Linda Mattes.

Absent excused: Carol Doherty & Don Reese.

Meeting called to order by Vice President Gayla Eckis and Pr. Travis opened with prayer.

Consent Agenda

Pastor's Report: *The best of last month:* Most of my effort has been to connect with folks in what ways I can during this pandemic. This has included the online services, but also striving to gauge where people are from a distance. Very little is consistent as some new challenge seems to come up every week. It has been an opportunity to try new things and it has encouraged folks to do things they might not have otherwise. The drive-up communion has been a success, which we will continue until opening.

Upcoming events and activities: As we start off this next year there is still a lot of uncertainty. We are testing the waters as we go, but my hope is to continue with classes and various learning opportunities. Confirmation and Sunday school will be starting in the next couple of weeks. Though we are having to figure out how to do all that over Zoom. Right now, we are in a "wait and see" for the holidays, but I intend to have a plan as we get closer to Advent and Christmas.

Requested actions: I plan to do some experimenting in Sunday Morning Adult education. Right now, I am leaning toward some in person small group sessions. Thoughts? I will be taking Monday the 21st off. I would recommend that we get the sanctuary painted asap, while we are still empty.

Visits: these are still largely on hold, though I have been making regular phone calls with some folks who are struggling.

PDF: There have been spotty requests for aid since this all began, but I have helped with some hotel rooms, aid with bills and gas cards. Balance: \$2,246.29.

It was moved by Pr. Travis, seconded by Linda Gustin to accept the

Consent Agenda and minutes of August 10, 2020 Council meeting, the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: by Janet Wood. August offering was \$11,012; budgeted monthly amount is \$18,128.00. Income was \$7,116 less than the budgeted amount. The monthly expenses were more than income by \$4,332. Month end bank balance was \$2,946.00. Janet asked again about the Flood Relief money of \$722, Pr. Travis will follow through with this. Mark Stansbury has applied for Payroll Credit Relief and hopes to have it by the end of the year. It was moved by Linda Gustin, seconded by Dena Summerfield to accept the Treasurer's Report, motion carried.

Old Business:

Update on Sanctuary remodel by Kevin Hale. Kevin reported that there is \$9,500 in the Sanctuary fund, with a reminder to thank the people that have donated. It was discussed to remember to stay in touch with each other during these trying times. The council discussion and decision is to move forward with painting since we have the money. It was moved by Pr. Travis and seconded by Linda Gustin to approve of Kevin deciding about the painting of the Sanctuary with the most appropriate bid. Motion carried. Kevin will contact several painters and confirm prices and availability. Pr. Travis said we can remove the pews once we know when they are available. Carpeting will be next, and they need two weeks to order the materials needed.

New Business:

Bottle drop in Hermiston Pr. Travis asked for help with dropping off the sacks full of bottles. With 10 bags or less there is no appointment needed. Mark asked if Pr. Travis could make a video of how to deposit the cans at the recycle center to put on the website, it could help ease the fear of what to do.

Bottle fund: There is approximately \$959.70 in this fund, half goes to Youth and half to the Sanctuary Fund.

Round Up days off Anna will be out of the office, but Pr. will be on Wednesday and Thursday.

Phase 2 changes It was decided to

wait until phase 3 to start returning to Sunday services, that it is hard to be in church and not sing or fellowship.

Update the sign on the corner of 9th and Carden needs some attention, the plexiglass is cloudy, and the frame needs to be painted. Dena Summerfield will call C & H Glass to get an estimate for plexiglass and Mark has black paint for the metal.

Treasurer discussion Janet Wood announced that she will be retiring by the end of year. Her hope is to help train the next treasurer. One congregation member has expressed interest in the Treasurer position, others are welcome to contact Carol or whomever if they are interested. Thank you, Janet, for your many years of service! You have been a blessing to Peace.

Newsletter contributions if you have something that needs to be published or you would like to see in the newsletter, please let the office know.

Synod Day of Learning will have a workshop via Zoom on September 16.

Synod Assembly will be November 6-7 via Zoom. Our nominated representatives are Don & Cheryl Carlson, with Gayla Eckis & Linda Mattes as alternates.

Annual Meeting is January 24 or 31. We will be working on the budget starting in October.

Confirmands in October we have 3 confirmands: Ella Guenther, Tori Estrada, Josie Nelson.

Vacant Council position we received a letter from Don Reese asking to step down from council. Thank you, Don, for years of service on council, your wisdom will be missed. It was moved by Kevin Hale and seconded by Linda Gustin to accept Don Reese's resignation from council. Motion carried. If you are interested in serving the rest of Don's term (till 2022) please let Carol Doherty or anyone on council know.

Announcements, reminders, and updates:

Congregational members updating contact information.

Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 7:17pm.

Linda Mattes, Council secretary
Next council meeting October 12

Impact Pendleton

Impact Mentoring is a one-on-one mentoring program that matches local church members with students from local schools. Over the past 18 months mentoring has been taking place all over Pendleton. By March of 2019 we had made our first ten matches, and now in the summer of 2020, we have made a total of 35!



Last year mentoring activities included playing at the park, eating ice cream, sledding, and attending school events. This year mentoring took place through Zoom calls, walks, and virtual group activities like a big virtual pizza party. While the pandemic has changed the way we connect, it hasn't changed the effect that connection has in children's lives. All of these small actions have added up to some BIG results. Here are just a few of them...



Lasting Relationships

Studies have shown that while one year of mentoring has numerous benefits, matches that don't make it to one year can do more harm than good, making it so important to reach that milestone. Here at Impact we are thrilled to report that our first 13 matches have all made it to the one year mark, and many have chosen to continue on past it. That is twice the national average!

Education

Children with a mentor have higher GPA's and are more likely to graduate high school, and our mentees report cards have reflected that. After one year of mentoring, 100% of Impact mentees improved both their grades and behavior in school!

Emotional Health

Another way we assess improvements is by administering the KIDCOPE test at the beginning and end of the first year of mentoring. This test is used to measure how children cope with stress. 100% of our mentees scored higher at the end of the year than before they were matched. Praise the Lord!



Despite all of the uncertainty this year that has altered our normal routines, mentors are transforming these children's lives every day in positive and lasting ways. This wouldn't be possible without all the donors, churches, schools, volunteers, and board members that give so much time and effort to keep Impact going. Thank you everyone and God Bless!

~The Pendleton Impact Team

As Matthew 18:20 reads: "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Lutheran congregations around the country found new meaning in this passage when COVID-19 closed sanctuaries in mid-March.

When faith communities couldn't worship in person, congregations scrambled to stream online worship using Facebook Live, YouTube and other platforms. They also engaged members by emails, texts and phone calls.

Several congregations reported increases in worship attendance through these virtual means, especially during Holy Week and Easter.

Statistics from Barna Group, a California-based faith and culture research firm, give a national perspective. In its article "Current Trends in Virtual Attendance & Weekly Giving Amid COVID-19," Barna reported that 44% of the more than 600 Protestant pastors surveyed said their congregation's virtual attendance was higher than typical in-person Sunday worship attendance.

"I know that we're reaching audiences that we wouldn't normally."

ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton echoed this in a video message on May 7: "We know that our congregations are now livestreaming worship services—congregations that would never have done that before—and not only reaching their own people, but people who had never come into a church to hear the good news of Jesus are now hearing it and receiving it."

Mike Housholder, a pastor of Lutheran Church of Hope in central Iowa, reported an increase in worship numbers during the pandemic. The congregation has six campuses, and he moved all worship services online in March. "Since then, around 20,000 screens—we aren't sure how many people watch each screen—are tuned in to our livestream services on weekends," he said.

That number grew to 100,000 screens on Easter, said Housholder, who at-

tributes that enormous jump, in part, to the Easter service being broadcast free of charge by the local NBC affiliate in Des Moines, Iowa.

"We enjoyed learning later that Jesus got a higher rating share in Des Moines that morning than all the Sunday news shows," he said.

Broadcasting isn't new to Hope, which has offered weekly online worship services live via HopeOnline.tv. Before the pandemic, Housholder estimates weekly in-person attendance at all campuses averaged more than 13,000 people, with thousands more worshipping online.

"In the future, though, I think weekly worship attendance numbers won't count for much as the world around us continues to change," he said. "We're much more interested in how many people are connecting to the gospel of Jesus Christ through our discipleship classes and groups, serving in ministries and missions, and tapping into our in-person and digital resources, including podcasts, classes, services, devotionals, etc. Weekly worship is just a part of that, not the whole."

Encouraging engagement

Matt Cimorelli, pastor of Lutheran Church of the Reformation in West Long Branch, N.J., also saw success with online worship. Since the COVID-19 pandemic hit, he has been using Facebook Live for a Sunday-morning worship service and a Wednesday-evening service and Bible study.

"It's all done live from my dining room," said Cimorelli, who is assisted by his wife. "We have a paschal candle, prayers, flowers and a bowl for the baptismal font." Cimorelli, who is also a musician, plays guitar and piano during the services.

"I know that we're reaching audiences that we wouldn't normally," he said.

Cimorelli estimates that 40 to 50 users livestream Sunday worship and 15 to 20 livestream weekly Bible study. A Facebook counter tells him the number of devices accessing

each event.

Each screen can represent a family of five that is watching worship together, he said, so if 50 screens are tuned in, as many as 250 people could be watching. Cimorelli estimates weekly attendance for in-person services was around 90.

Making the online service intimate was one of Cimorelli's goals. "That's a word that people use to describe worship," he said. "I'm standing 10 feet away from the camera set up on a box in my dining room. I can talk very intimately. The worship feels like family, too, as people greet each other with comments."

Worshippers, he said, will use a happy emoji or will "like" or "share" the service on Facebook.

"At Easter and Holy Week, we had hundreds and hundreds of engagements," Cimorelli said. "It was quite encouraging. My own family from around the country could tune in."

Khader El-Yateem, director for evangelical mission in the Florida-Bahamas Synod, said the pandemic opened new opportunities for the church to adopt a more professional online presence. The synod distributed about \$40,000 in grants to congregations to take online training, build websites, adopt more social platforms, and buy technology and equipment.

"We'd been encouraging our churches to step into the 21st century—to do websites, livestreaming, get on social platforms," he said. "There was some resistance, and now COVID-19 has pushed us to embrace this. Church leaders have had to learn a lot of new skills."

Congregations have also discovered that they're much bigger than their physical size, El-Yateem said, adding, "They've seen an increase in their online participation, and some have seen financial support. I think COVID-19 presented a tremendous opportunity for us to think about what it means to be the church now."

Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus & Mary



“I have come to cast fire on the earth and would that it already be the kindled fire of love, justice and peace.”

Luke 12:49



50 | 40 | 10

Did you know that a group of religious sisters in Oregon took the Klan to the US Supreme Court way back in 1925 and won? Or that they opened the first secondary school in Oregon and the first 4-year liberal arts college for women in the NW? Meet the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus & Mary. In 1859, twelve French-speaking nuns traveled from Quebec to Portland to start a school. Oregon had just become a state; the population of Portland was around 1200. The sisters arrived in the fall, after a harrowing 7,000 mile land and sea voyage. Within a few weeks - with only a few sisters fluent in English - they opened the first high school in Oregon, St. Mary's Academy (open to Catholics and non-Catholics.) Beyond teaching, they took on the work of ministering to the community: visiting the sick, comforting the dying, preparing the dead for burial, and taking in orphans. In 1893, the school expanded to award college degrees, (in the early 1900's the college would separate from St. Mary's and become Marylhurst). In 1922 the sister publicly boycotted businesses that supported the Klan - which was very active in Portland at the time. The Klan responded by helping to pass the Oregon Compulsory School Law - which required all children to attend public school, effectively dealing a death blow to religious education. The sisters sued and the case made it all the way to the Supreme Court. In 1925 the case, *Pierce v. Society of Sisters*, was heard, the sisters won, and the law was overturned. The sister continued in their work caring for, and educating, Oregonians. In 1930, St. Mary's Academy open to Black students, at a time when many cities and towns in Oregon still had "sundown laws" forbidding the presence of any black bodies after dark. In 1937 they opened a preschool for Japanese children. In 1940 they opened and inter-racial day nursery. The sisters continue to be an active force for good in Oregon today.

We thank you for wearing a mask.

It shows you care about those around you.



Lutheran World Relief: Beirut Explosion, what's next?

The Beirut ammonium nitrate explosion August 4th impacted a shipment of three LWR containers in the port waiting to be unloaded. There were 22,500 quilts, 3,500 school kits, 19,500 personal care kits, and 2,250 baby care kits in the three containers. The explosion may not have totally destroyed the three LWR containers. LWR's partner, ANERA, which has access to the area, is trying to determine what is salvageable.

The devastation in the port area, along with the fact that the Lebanese authorities are still investigating the explosion, restricts access. In addition, the September 10th new, unrelated blaze makes it harder to access. **Many of you want to help. Especially because many of the damaged kits and quilts came from the Pacific Northwest.** Besides sending quilts and kits as always, you can do-

nate dollars to the Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund. The lwr.org website has several good articles summarizing what happened, and a daily blog from their staff investigating the destruction. Link is : <https://loom.ly/X4U8q2k> LWR says Personal Care kits are highest priority currently.

School Kits and Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief

Lutheran World Relief will be holding the Ingathering of donated items to be shipped wherever they are needed around the world in the middle of October. With the Covid-19 situation and the explosion at the port in



Beirut, our contributions are more important than ever. LWR is very specific

about the items that we need to send. Please call the office or go to [LWR.org/kits](https://lwr.org/kits) for the lists. They were also printed in the September newsletter. You can leave your items on the table in the Fellowship Hall. If you'd like to write a check to help with shipping costs or to allow us to purchase the needed items for you, please put "LWR KITS" on the memo

line. Thanks for your generosity! If you have questions, call Wanda Penner at 541-276-9373 or Terry Dallas at 541-276-7309 or call the Church Office.



Lutheran World Relief Quilters

Do you like to sew? Would you like to help out needy people here in the US or overseas? Anyone can help to make Quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Stop by the

church and pick up a packet of quilt squares from the box in the Fellowship Hall. Sew the squares together using simple 1/4" seams and then return the finished quilt top to the

church. The Peace Quilters will finish assembling the quilts whenever they are able to meet again.

Are those in the right place?



Those pews don't like they are in the right room. All the pews have been moved out of the sanctuary and the sanctuary is getting ready for a fresh coat of paint.



Upcoming Dates to Remember

October 4 ~ Blessing of the Quilts

October 12 ~ Council Meeting

October 16-17~ Ingathering in Spokane

October 25 ~ Reformation Sunday and Drive thru Communion

October 31 ~ Halloween

November 11 ~ Veteran's Day

November 22 ~ Christ the King Sunday

November 26 ~ Thanksgiving

November 26-27 ~ Office Closed

November 29 ~ Drive Thru Communion



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