

June 2020 Elder: JP Breugem, Altar Guild: Carol & Duane Aldrich, Stewardship: Scott Jungers

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6 6:00 pm Worship*
7 10:30 am Worship* Usher Team: Mark W. Acolyte: RJ VerMulm Camera: Ian McM. A/V: Dan Tentinger Acc.: Peggy Christensen	8	9	10	11	12	13 6:00 pm Worship
14 10:30 am Worship Usher Team: Rodney M. Acolyte: Ani Topete Camera: Jaxton Jungers A/V: Derek Allen Acc.: Peggy Christensen	15 7 pm LWML	16	17	18	19	20 6:00 pm Worship*
21 10:30 am Worship* Usher Team: Larry VW. Acolyte: Jayden Burt Camera: Blake VB. A/V: Tom Murren Acc.: Sharon Wakeman	22	23	24	25	26	27 6:00 pm Worship
28 10:30 am Worship Usher Team: Bill B. Acolyte: Brielle Aldrich Camera: Derek Allen A/V: Mary Ortner Acc.: Tracy DeBruin	29	30				

Iowa District West Planting Together

June 2020

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On a Mission to Support Christ's Mission

Joyful Response® Electronic Offerings

For such a time as this—and beyond—LCEF offers e-tithing and e-tuition payments through the Joyful Response® program, a stewardship resource for LCMS ministries.

Even when we cannot gather physically in large groups, our offerings and gifts can be given in a timely manner to support ministry! Are you ready?

LCEF pays the basic fees to get a ministry started. Joyful Response® allows your members to give one-time gifts or recurring tithes via any of the following:

- Your church website
- A mobile phone app
- A paper enrollment ACH form through your church office
- Text giving (includes a fee to the service provider)

Joyful Response® is also available for use by schools, nursing homes, child-care ministries, camps, LWML and other LCMS organizations who wish to offer their families and supporters consistent, convenient payment options.

To request a Joyful Response® Enrollment Packet, please call 800-843-5233, email request@lcef.org or go to <https://lcef.org/joyful-response/>.

Carole White, LCEF Vice President

carole.white@lcef.org

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“Main Street Living” and “This Is the Life” programming information for June, 2020

May 31 airing

This is the Life – “A Different Way” – In this Fisher family episode, Cousin Stanley visits and creates a difficult situation with a neighbor. Worship Service – Rev. Brian Bucklew of Zion Lutheran Church in Plainview, NE delivers the message “Jesus Quenches Our Thirst” based on John 7:37-39. Additional information is available on the web site: www.mainstreetliving.com.

June 07 airing

This is the Life – “Give and Take” – A young Christian Ad agency representative navigates a situation with an overly attentive married man. Worship Service – Rev. Bradley Ketcham of Grace Lutheran Church in Storm Lake delivers the message “The Name Above Every Name” based on Matthew 28:16-20. Additional information is available on the web site: www.mainstreetliving.com.

June 14 airing

This is the Life – “No Tears for Bill” – A widow struggles with her past and upcoming marriage. Worship Service – Rev. Marcel Kohlmeyer of St. John Lutheran Church of Tecumseh, NE delivers the message “Jesus Has Compassion on Us!” based on Matthew 9:35-10:8. Additional information is available on the web site: www.mainstreetliving.com.

June 21 airing

This is the Life – “Two Weeks to Eternity” – Worship Service – Rev. David Zirpel of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Sioux City delivers the message “An Open Book Test” based on Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43. Additional information is available on the web site: www.mainstreetliving.com.

June 28 airing

This is the Life - “The House of Sand” – This classic Fischer Family episode explores the difference between a moral and Christian life. Worship Service – Rev. Matthew Koterba of St. Peter Lutheran Church in Wymore, NE and Zion Lutheran Church in Harbine, NE delivers the message “The Yoke of Prophecy” based on Jeremiah 28:5-9. Additional information is available on the web site: www.mainstreetliving.com.

Festival Worship Service

Sunday, June 7 is Trinity Sunday. We will gather for a special Festival Service to thank God for His faithfulness throughout this pandemic and at all times.

COVID-Continues- How that impacts us?

We will continue to have social distancing measures in place (offering in the back and pews taped off) for the month of June. Please return to services as you feel comfortable and are healthy.

Saturday Night Service

Saturday Night Services will return on June 6.

Youth Summer Activities

Vacation Bible school will tentatively moved to August. Watch for more information.

Thank You!

Thank you to all the Sunday school/catechism teachers this year! We could not have done it without you!



Iowa Early Childhood Conference

Date: August 7

Theme: Masterpiece in the Making

New Location: Shepherd of the Valley,
West Des Moines

Registration material will be emailed to schools by the first week in June.



Concordia Plan Services Workshops

Health care in today's world continues to change and it is hard to keep up on the complexities of the health care options. Anyone interested in learning more about all the Concordia Health Plan options, special coverages, and what is new for 2021 is encouraged to attend a workshop this summer.



July 8 – Iowa District West office - 3 pm

July 9 – Gloria Dei, Urbandale - 3 pm

July 9 – Messiah, Johnson - 7 pm

You can explore a wealth of information online at www.concordiaplans.org. Also, the Congregational Treasurer's Manual, Chapter 4 has a plethora of information at www.lcms.org/ctm.

Secretarial/Administrative Assistants Fall Conference

The Iowa District West Secretarial/Administrative Assistants Conference Committee has an excellent program planned for Tuesday, **September 22**, in Fort Dodge. The theme, based on Romans 10:15, will focus on Effective Communication (including newsletters). Brenda Clark Hamilton, National speaker, will talk about communication and a current popular topic – Recalculating - Skills for When Life's GPS Takes an Unexpected Turn. More details and conference brochure will be shared this summer.



Calendar of Events

June 21...Father's Day

July 8...Concordia Plan Services Workshop, District Office, Fort Dodge

July 9...Concordia Plan Services Workshop, Gloria Dei, Urbandale

July 9...Concordia Plan Services Workshop, Messiah, Johnston

August 7...Iowa Early Childhood Conference, West Des Moines

August 31...Pastors Golf Day, Ida Grove

September 22...Secretarial/Administrative Assistants Conference, Fort Dodge

For more information on Iowa District West activities, view *The Messenger* at www.idwlcms.org/publications.php



IDW YOUTH Gatherings Will Take a Different Look

The Junior and Senior Youth Gathering Planning Teams have made the decision to cancel our regular gatherings in Des Moines.

The decision was made for the following reasons:

- 1) Uncertainty of COVID-19 impact on attendance of youth/adults –will families be comfortable sending youth to a large event where students are gathered from all over?
- 2) The challenge of hotel contracts and minimums of how many people we need to attend—and the ability to pull out of contracts now, instead of later.
- 3) COVID-19 financial impact on families and churches is uncertain.



GATHERING TEAMS PLANNING VIRTUAL EVENT WHERE YOUTH CAN GATHER AT THEIR OWN CHURCH

The planning teams are working to put together an experience at your own church for an evening. These virtual events will take place on the same weekend the gatherings were originally scheduled. The planning teams will plan an hour and a half virtual experience and livestream! More details will be passed on to youth groups in the days to come.

June Birthdays

1. Mandie Allen
2. Jill Jacobs
3. Ashley Bultman
4. Kim Waterman
5. Amy Huebner
6. Dave Aldrich
7. Ani Topete
8. Madison Aldrich
12. Brenda Finch, Antonio Topete
13. Dale Boerma, Julie Mace, Jim Petry, Avis Sunderman
14. Deb Krotachvil, Sherry Schuerkamp
17. Mindy Burt, Zander Utesch
18. Eric Graves
20. Don Bultman, Michelle Klaus, Jeff Kool
21. Austin Benda, Mia Danielson
22. Tracie McManaman, Hannah McVay, Cory Utech, David Weinmann Jr.
24. Crew McVay
25. Oina Vander Feen
27. Angel Topete



June Anniversaries

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| 2. Dale & Joyce Boerma | 53 years |
| 3. Brian & Karen Engleman | 41 years |
| 6. Chet & Morgan Utesch | 5 years |
| 7. Roger & Audree Olson | 34 years |
| 12. Jerry & Jean Toft | 67 years |
| 13. Eric & Mary Ortner | 11 years |
| 16. Duane & Teresa Sperle | 19 years |
| 17. Jeff & Julie Kool | 37 years |
| 20. Evan & Jill Vander Feen | 33 years |
| 21. Bill & Sharilyn Buryanek | 40 years |
| 26. JP & Holly Breugem | 16 years |
| 27. Duane & Carol Aldrich | 56 years |
| 27. Tom & Janie Murren | 5 years |
| 28. Don & Marge Dimmick | 61 years |
| 29. Jim & Annabel McKee | 24 years |

From Pastor's Desk... "How long, O Lord?" Throughout the Scriptures this was the cry of God's people during times when they were cut off, afflicted with sickness and pain, surrounded by enemies, and desperate for help. Throughout this pandemic, we've been asking that question: "How long?" While many in our area have been spared from the illness itself, we have, nevertheless, suffered the impact of lives turned upside down. Much of our world has changed: teachers, students, and parents struggle to adapt to technological learning at home, graduation is postponed, sports are cancelled, jobs are suspended or cut back, families are cut off from loved ones in the hospital and care homes. How long, O Lord?

How long, O Lord? Is the cry of God's people now. Jesus is with us. He is the ultimate strength and help for God's people. He surrounds us with comfort and assurance: "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5). ^{ESV} **Isaiah 53:4** Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. Healing will come. Covid-19 will end. Jesus' resurrection and second coming is our assurance that the body will be restored and end to sickness and death will come (Rev. 21:4). This is the hope that clings to us now who cry out to God, "How long, O Lord?"

God's people have always cried out to Him as a community of believers. Perhaps not being together is the hardest part for many of us. As sanctions lift, and you feel comfortable, gather once more with your brothers and sisters in Christ to thank the Lord for His deliverance and for answering our prayers. I pray that through this time we have been built up in hope, which doesn't disappoint. ^{ESV} **2 Corinthians 1:7** Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort. That hope and comfort is Jesus! ^{ESV} **Romans 15:13** May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Do Not Forget

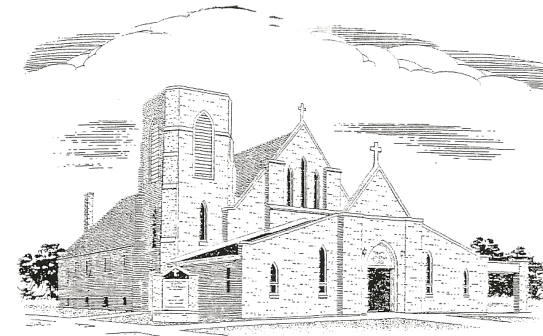
In the midst of COVID-19, we are by necessity focusing on our health and economic challenges, but let's not forget about all the blessings that God has given and continues to give to us. Through faith, we know that He is in control and that He loves us and wants His very best for us. Throughout Scripture, though, God's people over and over again have shown the propensity to forget His goodness and love as they separated themselves from Him. When the people of Israel were in the wilderness, God reminded them, through Moses, that they were not to forget what He had done for them. *"...then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the Lord your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, Who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness"* (Deuteronomy 8:14-15). God tells the people that they will prosper in the new land, but He warns them not to set their hearts on their possessions. It is just as easy for us as was for the Israelites to forget about God's goodness and protection.

God tested the people of Israel for 40 years in the wilderness. They endured many hardships. Through these hardships the people witnessed God's goodness as He came to their rescue time and time again. Could this pandemic be our wilderness and a time of testing? This hardship is helping us to see that we are not in control, and we need God. As God used the wilderness to shape and humble the people of Israel, is God allowing this COVID-19 to draw us closer to Him? Facing these major health and economic issues is helping many, many people understand that we can't make it on our own. Through faith, we understand that all we are and have are by God's grace and that He makes it possible for us live today, tomorrow, and forever.

How are you responding to your wilderness test? Only through faith can we understand that all these challenges that confront us are for our benefit. As God's people, we live with the promise that He will never leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). We know that we are completely reliant on God's generous, daily blessings. May it be our prayer that our wilderness experience will draw us closer to Him, and may we not forget His love for us. We can confidently place our total trust in Him to provide all that we need for this life and beyond as He walks with us during these trying times. We also pray for the leaders of our country that they will seek God's wisdom and guidance during this crisis.

Read the Bible in one year by reading the following passages this month...

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| 1. Isaiah 12:1-6 | Acts 15-16 |
| 2. Psalm 150 | Acts 17-18 |
| 3. Psalm 1 | Acts 19-20 |
| 4. Psalm 2 | Acts 21-22 |
| 5. Psalm 3 | Acts 23-24 |
| 6. Psalm 4 | Acts 25-26 |
| 7. Psalm 5 | Acts 27-28 |
| 8. Psalm 6 | Joshua 1-5 |
| 9. Psalm 7 | Joshua 6-8 |
| 10. Psalm 8 | Joshua 9-11 |
| 11. Psalm 9 | Joshua 12-16 |
| 12. Psalm 10 | Joshua 17-21 |
| 13. Psalm 11 | Joshua 22-24 |
| 14. Psalm 12 | Judges 1-3 |
| 15. Psalm 13 | Judges 4-6 |
| 16. Psalm 14 | Judges 7-9 |
| 17. Psalm 15 | Judges 10-12 |
| 18. Psalm 16 | Judges 13-15 |
| 19. Psalm 17 | Judges 16-18 |
| 20. Psalm 18 | Judges 19-21 |
| 21. Psalm 19 | Ruth |
| 22. Psalm 20 1 | Samuel 1-3 |
| 23. Psalm 21 1 | Samuel 4-6 |
| 24. Psalm 22 1 | Samuel 7-9 |
| 25. Psalm 23 1 | Samuel 10-12 |
| 26. Psalm 24 1 | Samuel 13-15 |
| 27. Psalm 25 1 | Samuel 16-18 |
| 28. Psalm 26 1 | Samuel 19-21 |
| 29. Psalm 27 1 | Samuel 22-24 |
| 30. Isaiah 12:1-6 1 | Samuel 25-27 |



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Newsletter 2020