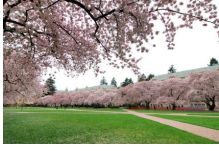
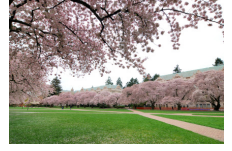


KOINONIA

May-June 2020



LUTHERAN PARISH OF NORTHERN DUTCHESS
PARISH
PASTOR JAMES MILLER



ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN, INDEED! ALLELUIA!

Dear Friends in Christ. Easter, 2020, has come but the Easter season is 50 days, until Pentecost, so we are still in Eastertide. The unthinkable has taken place. Our churches were *empty* on a day that usually guarantees that they be filled. Let us pray that we will never experience something like this again. Meanwhile, though, it is important to remember that Christ was raised and lives, and to hold this truth firmly and deeply in our hearts.

I want us to think about these times the way that I always want us to be thinking: theologically. Where is God in every situation and, therefore, where is God in these times now? When we do this, it might lead us to be thinking along the lines of, “What caused this pandemic? Did God cause it? If so, why?” After all, we certainly know of several instances in the Old Testament of God’s wrath as punishment for sin. Could this be what is happening?

Or another line of thought might be along the lines of the omnipotence of God. Here we may be saying, “God is all-powerful so if this isn’t an example of God’s wrath, then what is the cause?” If we answer that the cause is *evil*, which is to say Satan, or the Devil, then, why isn’t God stopping this?

Of course, we cannot really know the answers to these questions, and frankly, it is a little dangerous to be going down those paths. I want to suggest that there is another path that we should travel. It is the path that reminds us of our relationship with God which never ends. This is the path that helps us and reassures us in troubling times.

Regarding our relationship with God, Martin Luther, in his Small Catechism, speaks about this. You will remember, of course, that after each point in this most instructive work, he poses the question, “What does this mean?” He then begins his explanation the same way: “You must fear and love God”, and then goes on to develop each point. So, our relationship with God involves fear and love. He refers to a passage in this passage in the Ten Commandments: “

"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

³ "You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴ "You shall not make for yourself a graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth;

⁵ you shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me,

⁶ but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.”

(Exo 20:2-6 RSV)

Regarding this Luther writes in the Large Catechism [Martin Luther, *The Large Catechism in The Book of Concord: The confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church*, Robert Kolb and Timothy J. Wengert, ed. (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2000), 429: 323, 324.]:

“Thus, God demands that *all* our actions proceed from a heart that fears God, *looks to Him alone*, and because of this fear avoids all that is contrary to His will, lest He be moved to wrath. Conversely, He de-

mands that our actions proceed from a heart that *trusts in Him alone* and for His sake, does all that He asks of us, because He reveals Himself to us as a kind father and offers us every grace and blessing. This is exactly the meaning and the right interpretation of the First and chief Commandment, from which all the others proceed. This word, ‘You shall have no other gods’, means simply, ‘You shall fear, love, and trust me as your one true God.’ For where your heart has such an attitude toward God, you have fulfilled this commandment and all the others. On the other hand, whoever fears and loves *anything else* in heaven or on earth will keep neither this one nor any other.”

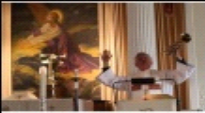
To be sure, the COVID-19 disease from the nova chronovirus is a significant and dangerous threat. So, we must be aware of it, and aware of the restrictions, but we must not *fear* these things. We must place our fear in only one place: God. But, *immediately*, and I do mean *immediately*, we must also *love* God, and put our *trust* in God and in *God alone*.



We are Easter people! This means that when we ask questions about what is behind what is going on now, or, what will follow, there is one answer and one answer alone. The answer to these questions, and to all questions is this: The Crucifixion and the Resurrection of Jesus Christ for *us!*

I pray that when you are reading this in the beginning of May, that we will be hearing more about the eventual lifting of the restrictions, and that you will be contemplating what it means that Jesus Christ was crucified and resurrected for *us* (and that means *you*). I pray that this will help you in these days, and for all days.

Alleluia! Christ is risen. He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Christ’s peace to you—Pastor Jim

<p>All worship services and activities within the LPND are cancelled or postponed until further notice due to the ongoing impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.</p> <p>Pastor Jim continues to be available for pastoral care, conversation, and prayer: phone 914-441-4360 or email circuitpastorjim@aol.com.</p>	
	<p>Sermons, Readings and Prayers on Video</p> <p>Vocal and Trumpet Solos by Pastor Jim</p> <p>YouTube Channel: LutheranParishNorthernDutchess</p> <p>Weekly uploads on Saturday</p> <p><i>If you missed a Sunday, Holy Week, or Easter, they are still available on the channel for easy access.</i></p>
<p>Access:</p> <p>Parish Webpage: www.LutheranParishNorthernDutchess.org Click on Pastor Jim’s picture on the Home Page. This will take you to the YouTube channel for the Parish. Select the readings or sermon you would like to view. Click the arrow to play.</p> <p>YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvScZg0AOFHzaXUBCBwuauO/ Click on the link above or copy the address into the search bar of your browser. Clicking enter will take you to the Parish YouTube channel from which you can select the readings and sermons you would like to view.</p> <p>Subscribe to the channel: receive automatic notification when a new video is posted. Trouble Accessing or would like to be added to the email notification list, Contact Monica at aabrymc@frontiernet.net or 914-475-6613 voice or text.</p>	
<p><i>Please share via your social media networks, Like the Parish Facebook page, subscribe to this YouTube Channel, and/or forward the weekly emails.</i></p>	

	Bible Study Thursday 10 a.m. April 30 – June 4 with Pastor Jim	
Zoom meeting called "LPND Thursday Bible Study" <i>No account is required to join the meeting.</i>		
Video: Tap the <i>Join Zoom Meeting</i> link: https://zoom.us/j/97546613332 Smartphone or Tablet: you will be prompted to download the free Zoom app. Computer: you will be prompted to download Zoom or join from your browser instruction video: https://screencast-o-matic.com/watch/cYf3eiAQ35 . <i>(must have a microphone or webcam, built into most laptops, but not most desktops)</i> Once you have the app, you will be prompted to join the call. Audio Only: call in by phone +1 929 205 6099 US <i>(It's a long-distance number, so only choose this option if you have an unlimited call plan, for example, on a cell phone.)</i>		
Join Zoom Meeting link: https://zoom.us/j/97546613332 Meeting ID: 975 4661 3332 One tap mobile +19292056099,,97546613332# US (New York)	Dial by your location +1 929 205 6099 US (New York) +1 253 215 8782 US +1 301 715 8592 US Meeting ID: 975 4661 3332	
<i>Meeting Host is Carol Braun</i> Contact: cabraun98@aol.com 312-613-4753		
All are Welcome! Invite a friend!		

THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT @ THIRD

Well the last ten months have without a doubt presented their fair share of challenges. We are grateful that we were able to return to the sanctuary at Third in October after our extended absence during the reconstruction project. Then, just as we were welcoming the support groups back to the newly finished fellowship hall, Dutchess County restricted group gatherings and shortly thereafter the state moved into its "PauseNY" mode putting all worship services and church activities on hold effective March 15. It is sad to enter the building week after week with none of the usual hubbub of activity between Bible study, Crafty Christians, the support groups, and the "church mice" tending to their tasks.

We are learning to adapt by taking the leap into some of the options available through technology. Pastor Jim has acquiesced with some trepidation to no services in the Parish and has embraced the recording of the lessons, prayers, and his sermon each week. These videos are then uploaded to YouTube in time for Sunday viewing. The two weeks leading up to Easter were particularly busy with Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter videos to be prepared. The inclusion of several vocal and trumpet solos by Pastor Jim was especially moving as we walked through this Holy Week together, but in our own homes.

The positive feedback and gratitude expressed by members of the Parish is encouraging and we are thankful for Pastor Jim's devotion to providing meaningful worship experiences with each

CONTINUED ON PAGE FOUR

video under these challenging circumstances. I am grateful to Neal and Elaine for initiating the recording of the weekly sermons and making them available on YouTube long before anyone heard of the coronavirus. Their training and the use of their camera has made providing this opportunity to the members of the Parish a relatively smooth transition.

In my annual reports I generally thank all those folks who do things that we all take for granted and don't even think about until for some reason they are not done. A perfect example is the weekly upkeep of the altar. Every Sunday it looks nice with flowers, the correct paraments, and candles that are properly sized and won't go out in the middle of the service. So, what happens when the Altar Guild is not available because of PauseNY? ... Yours truly gets put to the test arranging flowers, extracting candle stubs, searching for new candles ... between the readings and sermon videos. I'm getting there; meanwhile don't look too closely at the details.

The Thursday morning Bible study is once again available! Thank you to Carol Braun for initiating the technical aspects and to Pastor Jim for leading the weekly study through cyberspace. The details for connecting either for just audio or through video are found elsewhere in this newsletter and are emailed weekly a day or two prior to the sessions. Everyone is welcome to participate.

Thank you to all who continue to send in their offerings. Your stewardship is important as most of the operating costs continue even while we are not able to come together in worship.

In closing, I look forward to the time when we can once again come together for worship including singing of the hymns and fellowship. In the meantime, please keep all who are directly impacted by the virus, employment / business concerns, and those who serve in essential services in your prayers.

God Bless,

Monica C. Gabryszewski
gabrymc@frontiernet.net

Third Council President 914-475-6613



May

2- Steve Hughes
4- Lisa Baisley
7- Rose Rider
14- Chloe Smith
14- Pat Bucala
15- Fred Cook
21- Clara Patton
22- William Cook
25- John Donegan
26 - Gerda Veneman
26- Eric Murray

June

3- Teresa Hughes
5- Karla Cook
7- Mackenzie Smith
7- Rev. Richard Holzer
22- Bruce Williams
24- Elizabeth Dill
26- Jack Walker
28-Sam Patton
30- Rev. LeRoy Ness

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS

“If anyone wishes to come after *Me*,
He must *deny* himself and *take* up his cross”

If any will follow Christ, their very first step is to deny themselves - in place of their own will to substitute the will of God as their one overriding principle of action.

Note that Jesus said, If anyone wishes, or desires. No one forced, but *if* any will be a Christian, it must be on these terms: Let him deny himself, and take up the cross. This rule can never be too much observed: Let each one in all things deny his or her own will, however pleasing, and do the will of God, however painful.

Should we not consider all crosses, all things painful to our human nature, as what they really are: as opportunities of embracing God’s will at the expense of our own? Consequently, as so many steps by which we may advance toward Perfection?

We will make swift progress in the spiritual life if we are faithful in this practice. Crosses are so frequent that whoever takes advantage of them will soon be a great gainer.

Great crosses are occasions of great improvement. And the little ones which come daily, even hourly, make up in number what they lack in weight. We may, in these daily and hourly crosses, make effectual sacrifice of our will to God. These, so frequently repeated, will soon mount to a great sum.



We at Memorial, wish to Thank our Pastor Jim, for the continued spiritual support and strength he has given us through these trying times, his unfailing love for our Parish is truly a gift - You are Loved by all Pastor Jim



Karen Streifeneder-----	May 05
Linda Woodward -----	May 10
Ken Decker -----	May 17
Nancy Kelly -----	June 23
Dot Bahnatka -----	June 29

God Bless
Memorial Council President
Tandy F. Walker
(518) 789-6899 caroltandy5@gmail.com



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LUTHERAN PARISH OF NORTHERN DUTCHESS

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<http://www.lutheranparishnortherndutchess.org/>

**Dated Material Address Correction Requested
THE SEASONS OF EASTER & PENTECOST**



**LUTHERAN PARISH OF
NORTHERN DUTCHESS**

Parish Council President: Carl Dowden
Memorial Lutheran, Rock City, Council
President: Tandy Walker

**Sunday Holy Communion 8:30 am—
Suspended due to NY PAUSE**

St. Paul's Lutheran, Red Hook, Council
President: Marilyn Heuer

**Sunday Holy Communion 11:00 am—
Suspended due to NY PAUSE**

Third Lutheran, Rhinebeck,
Church Council President:
Monica C. Gabryszewski

**Sunday Holy Communion 9:45 am—
Suspended due to NY PAUSE**

See inside for virtual Bible Study on line

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phone 914-441-4360 or email circuitpastorjim@aol.com.



Sermons, Readings and Prayers on Video

Vocal and Trumpet Solos by Pastor Jim

YouTube Channel: [LutheranParishNorthernDutchess](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvScZg0AOFHzaXUBCBwuuuO/)

Weekly uploads on Saturday

If you missed a Sunday, Holy Week, or Easter, they are still available on the channel for easy access.

"The Grace of our Lord
Jesus Christ, the Love of
God, and the
Communion of the Holy
Spirit be with you all."

Access:

Parish Webpage: www.LutheranParishNorthernDutchess.org

Click on Pastor Jim's picture on the Home Page. This will take you to the YouTube channel for the Parish. Select the readings or sermon you would like to view. Click the arrow to play.

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvScZg0AOFHzaXUBCBwuuuO/>

Click on the link above or copy the address into the search bar of your browser. Clicking enter will take you to the Parish YouTube channel from which you can select the readings and sermons you would like to view.

Subscribe to the channel: receive automatic notification when a new video is posted.

Trouble Accessing or would like to be added to the email notification list,
Contact Monica at gabrymc@frontiernet.net or 914-475-6613 voice or text.

Please share via your social media networks, Like the Parish Facebook page, subscribe to this YouTube Channel, and/or forward the weekly emails.