St. John Lutheran Church

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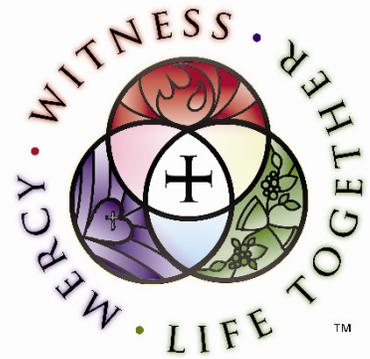
News & Notes

May 3, 2020

During these unusual days of pandemic, we will not be preparing the regular church bulletin, but will instead makes this *'News & Notes'* page available weekly on the website. In addition, paper copies of this page will be available on Tuesdays outside the church office for anyone coming in to drop off an offering.

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CONFIRMATION 2020 – Like everything these days, our plans for the Confirmation of our 2020 catechumens have been altered. Normally we would have the Rite of Confirmation on the 3rd Sunday of May, but because of uncertainty about when we'll get back to worship, and to allow enough time for preparation, **the date for Confirmation has been moved back three weeks to Sunday, June 7th**.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT UPDATE

Sewing as an act of charity has a long history dating all the way back to Dorcas (*Acts 9:36-42*) who sewed garments for the poor. In these days of pandemic, what is needed is for protective face masks to be sewn and given out to people. To that end, we have partnered with the Henry County Health Dept. (HCHD) to supply approximately 300 masks to the community.

- A group of about 14 women at St. John have volunteered to make these masks. We call them **"The Maskateers"** (*thanks, Deb Durham, for inspiring that name*).
- The materials have been purchased through our *Good Neighbor Fund.*
- The masks requested by the HCHD are according to CDC guidelines.
- When completed, the masks will be distributed by the HCHD to the community.
- We are still awaiting the shipment of elastic cord for final completion of the masks.

What a great blessing these masks will be to our community, and what a fantastic way to serve Christ through our neighbor! Thank you to our *Maskateers* for your loving and willing service!

2019 CHURCH'S ANNUAL REPORT: The 2019 Annual Report is now available. Thank you for your patience. Copies can be picked up from the table outside the office or on the desk in the narthex. There will be more printed and available next Tuesday. Thanks to everyone for your information submitted to be included in this report.

PORTALS OF PRAYER BOOKLETS

- Booklets for the second quarter (April-June) are available for you to pick up outside the church office.
- OR, on Facebook, search 'Portals of Prayer' and head to their page for each day's devotion.
- For many fantastic materials that *Concordia Publishing House* is making freely available during this time, go to **cph.org** and click the purple **"For Home, Browse Resources"** link. You will find links for many resources that are normally available by subscription only:
    - **'My Devotions'** devotions for teens
    - **'Happy Times'** magazine for children, the April/May issue
    - **'Family Time'** devotions for families with children
    - **'Today's Light'** (April issue) for a more in-depth consideration of daily Scripture readings
    - **'Lutheran Life'** online flip book (Spring issue) with many wonderful, articles for spiritual growth
    - **'Lutheran Witness'** (special issue) with exceptional articles for expanding your mind
    - **'CPH Music'** links on either Spotify or Amazon Music

ONLINE SERVICES FROM ST. JOHN

- Online services will be made available on **Sundays by 9:00 a.m.**
- Be sure to access the service PDF files so that you can follow along with each service
- Links for all these worship resources will be made available on **sjl.org** and on our Facebook page.

OFFERINGS DURING THIS TIME – The gifts of God's people are essential to the continuation of ministry. There are three ways we suggest giving your gifts during this time especially…
- Use our new '**Give Now'** online giving page – a link is on our website
- Mail your offerings to the church
- Drop off your offerings on Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to noon, outside the church office

More detailed information is available on the "Sustaining Ministry" document online.

MATTERS FOR PRAYER – Please keep these people in your prayers:
- Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Renetta Homan,* and *Lester Rabe*
- *Melba Elling,* and *Lorna Von Deylen*, at Genacross Lutheran Home
- *Evelyn Rohrs* and *Arlene Gerken,* at Assisted Living – Genacross Lutheran Home
- *Harold Behrmann,* at Fulton Manor – Wauseon
- *Donald Badenhop,* now residing at Vancrest Assisted Living – Holgate
- *Donald Landry,* residing at the Ohio Veteran's Home, Sandusky
- Armed Services: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs*, *Emily Schroeder, Connor Gerken, Seth Handy, Nathan Nemoyer, Jared Dishop*
- *Dale VonDeylen,* brother of Deb Durham and Dave VonDeylen, who is currently undergoing cancer treatments
- *Marc & Alex Wiechers,* on the birth of a daughter, Aria Carmen, on 4-26
- *Josh & Kris Elling,* on the birth of a son, Benjamin Earl on 4-27

FINANCIAL FACTS:

	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	$9,792.78	$500.00	$961.54
Rec'd 04/26/20	$12,435.00	$270.00	$60.00

ATTENDANCE: All services live-streamed due to Covid-19 pandemic

GETTING BACK TO WORSHIP – There is talk now of reopening our nation for business, and it's time for us to think about reopening our doors for worship.

- The Church Council discussed this matter but because of all the uncertainty, no decision was made at this time. The council will meet again this Tuesday, April 28 to see if there is enough information for us to make any firm decisions.
- For now, the plan for reopening our doors, whenever that happens, is to have worship on Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings at the normal times, but with plenty of social distancing, as well as other precautions.
- The Council voted to purchase an FM transmitter so that as we get back to worship, we can broadcast services out to the parking lot. This will permit people at higher risk, as well as those who are initially uncomfortable with public gatherings, to come to the church and listen to the service on their car the radios. Also, if we need to restrict the number of people gathered for worship, the overflow crowd could listen this way as well.

Please stay tuned for further information!

Stay Home   Stay Safe