

THE VIEW

JUNE 2021

vol. 65

NO. 6

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

The Liturgy of the Divine Service: An Introduction to the Service of the Sacrament and Closed Communion

As taught in Scripture and attested to in the Lutheran Confessions, God delivers His gracious gifts to His people through Word and Sacrament. The liturgy of the Divine Service also guides the worship life of the Christian to reflect upon this fact. For several months we have examined the first part of the Divine Service, which is the Service of the Word. Its entirety has pointed to God's promised and fulfilled salvation through Christ, our Lord. This gospel proclamation is sufficient to create and sustain a saving faith in Jesus within the hearer, but in order to strengthen and give confidence to the Christian, God additionally delivers His grace to us by tangible means: the Sacraments.

Both Sacraments, Baptism and Communion, are prominently featured in the Divine Service. The Sacrament of Holy Baptism is typically conducted at the beginning of the Service of the Word, when needed. Baptism happens once in the life of a Christians, and, although it would be amazing to have a baptism every week, baptism as a fixed element of the liturgy is not reasonable. Instead, the congregation is frequently reminded of their baptism in the preaching and teaching. The Sacrament of the Altar, on the other hand, is a regular and repeated event that is essential to the routine life of the Church. Therefore, Holy Communion and its celebration is the primary focus of the Divine Service's second part: The Service of the Sacrament.

Invited by our Lord, Lutherans faithfully gather as one in faith and practice to receive the precious body and blood of Jesus Christ, the One who makes us one in Him. Just as we cannot fully comprehend the miraculous working of God in the incarnation, where the Son of God comes to us in the flesh as simultaneously true God and true man, neither do we claim to understand how Christ's very body and blood are present in the bread and wine of the Holy Supper. Instead, we simply trust the veracity of Jesus when he says: "This is my body... This is my blood." To express both our confidence in Christ's promise and our limited understanding of the miraculous workings of God, Lutherans sometimes state that Christ is truly present "in, with, and under" the bread and wine. Jesus says he is present, therefore, by faith we believe he is without our muddying of the truth with a flawed human explanation of how this might be possible.

We happily let the mystery remain a mystery as the Latin word, *Sacramentum*, implies. Thus, God does the work in this Sacrament, and our very reception becomes a confession of faith. “The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.” 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

For this reason, the church has historically kept a sharp distinction between the Service of the Word and the Service of the Sacrament. All, whether believers, catechumens, or those who were curious about the Christian faith, were welcome to attend the Service of the Word and hear the Gospel message. But when the Service of the word concluded, visitors would be excused and the doors would be closed that only those who were properly trained in the faith would be permitted to participate in the Service of the Sacrament.

From the earliest days, Christians were cautious not to inadvertently harm the uninitiated by them ignorantly receiving of the Lord’s Supper in an unworthy manner and not by faith, as St. Paul warns in 1 Corinthians 11:26-29: “For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.”

Whether or not the person who receives the bread and wine of the Sacrament believes that is truly is the body and blood of Christ, what is received IS the body and blood of Christ nonetheless because the promise of Christ remains regardless. The benefit, however, is received by faith, which believes the Word and promise of Jesus that is given in this Meal. Therefore, if someone receives it in an unworthy manner or denying the presence and/or promise of Christ, then they are not receiving it by faith, but by unbelief, and thus drink and eat judgment upon themselves by their rejection of Christ rather than the blessing of forgiveness it was given to be.

In today’s context, we no longer dismiss visitors or those who are still undergoing instruction from the service, but we do keep the reverential and loving practice of closed communion. Some have disagreed with maintaining the church’s historic practice of closed communion and consider it anything but loving. Desiring to give an impression of being friendly and welcoming, many see closed communion as a hinderance to that image. Although the sentiment is well intended, it inadvertently denies the Word of God that we just read from 1 Corinthians and places the burden upon the uninformed to miraculously know what this Sacrament is without being first instructed. Unintentionally it bears the same attitude as Cain who slew his brother and then hid his guilt asking “am I my brother’s keeper?”

On the contrary, the practice of closed communion is one of the most loving things we can do. A good way to think of it is how a parent baby-proofs a house by covering electrical outlets. The child is not ready to handle those things yet, and as a result, even though electricity is a good thing, it is also dangerous if misused or abused. Therefore, a parent prevents a child from hurting themselves and denies access until the child is instructed and ready. Closed communion is not the rejection of the visitor; although, I will admit that sometimes pastors and members are negligent in their responsibilities or exhibit a sinful air of superiority that treats closed communion as such. If closed communion is practiced with the purpose and intent prescribed in scripture it does not reject the new-comer or outsider; it invites them to draw closer

by opening God's Word together that they may achieve concord the congregation and maturity in their faith.

In the upcoming issues of The View, we will examine the history and theology behind the liturgical parts of the Service of the Sacrament as they confess Christ's presence in, with, and under the bread and wine in this Holy Supper for the forgiveness of sin and the strengthening of our faith in Christ and His Word.

The Lords Supper-By appointment



Faithful People of Mt. Pisgah

Individual Confession/Absolution with Communion will be offered at the church to any who desire to receive it. Congregation members can schedule an appointment to receive the sacrament at their convenience for any time on Mondays from 9 AM to 9 PM or on Wednesdays from 1 PM to 6 PM. During their appointed time, the communicant (or family) will be the only one entering the sanctuary. The sacrament will be sanitarily prepared and placed on a table ahead of time, and the pastor will meet with them at a distance with a brief liturgy and consecration. Sterilization will occur before and after the appointment. Yes, this still leaves out the communal aspect of receiving the sacrament with fellow believers, but unusual methods are required for unusual times.

Please call the church office during business hours (Monday-Thursday 9AM-3PM and Friday from 9AM-Noon) to schedule your appointment. We will make every effort to ensure that any interpersonal contact is minimal.

May God bless you with His mercy and grace.

Pastor Jon

Faithful People of Mt. Pisgah

Broadcasting our services and bible studies has been a great benefit during this quarantine, but there are flaws. We may not be able to fix the isolation we all feel, but we have found ways to worship and pray together as the Body of Christ. Unfortunately, a terrible problem lies before us: we may have been able to reintroduce the Lord's Supper to our in-person Sunday worship, but a large section of our congregation has been kept from it. This cannot go on this way. Receiving the body and blood of Christ is far too important and necessary for the believer's wellbeing to continue without it. But neither should we afflict the consciences of those who have sacrificed so much to remain isolated for good of their own health and also for their neighbor.

Please consider making an appointment for individual communion.

May God bless you with His mercy and grace.

Pastor Jon



Youth BIBLE STUDY at 9:15 AM!!!

SUNDAY SERVICES 10:45 AM will broadcast live on the website and additionally posted later for viewing on the web page. A DVD is available outside church door in the red box.

NO NEED TO MISS CHURCH SERVICES OR EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Information for accessing church service or evening Bible Study

Online: Video will be found on the home page at <http://www.mtpisgahlutheran.com>

The service bulletin will also be available on the homepage.

Phone: Service will begin at 10:45 am, dial in direct with no access code to (508) 924-5662 or call toll-free (844) 802-6666 and enter access code 889956

Podcast: Search for “Mt Pisgah Lutheran” in your mobile device podcast app.

YouTube: Recording link will be published on the home page once it is available.

A DVD is available outside church door in the red box on the wall.



A Prayer for the Word in Our Hearts

Lord God, heavenly Father,
govern and guide us
through your Holy Spirit
that we hear your Word
with our whole hearts, receive it,
and become sanctified through it,
so that we may put all our trust and hope
in Jesus Christ, your Son,
be protected from all offenses and pride,
and finally be saved through your grace in Christ; through your Son, Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen.



Prayers and Concerns

Surgeries and Illness

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Brian Keeney | Sally Hardy | Helen Hutson (Montgomery) |
| Neil Motyka (Fry) | Joann Kapugi | Jennifer Hoffner (Doster) |
| Maureen Duemig | Joyce Boss (Kruse) | Agapia Dragan (Luecke) |
| Melanie & family (Kaufman) | Elizabeth Kaufman | Stacy Scovanner (Fry) |
| Brenda Ridgeway (Amato) | Mary Hill | Mary Coffman (Rev. Coffman) |
| Ellen Trinka (Montgomery) | Gretchen Sweetser (Mincer) | |
| Raymond Chang (Kirchoefer) | John & Linda | Characky (Steen) |
| Steve & Julie Nofisinger (Kirchoefer) | | Mike & Suzie Characky (Steen) |
| Linda Nielsen (Keeney) | Betty Ude | Robin Brier |
| Homero Gonzalez | | |

Homebound

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Ann Cheadle | Kathleen Fox | Joan Ginter |
| Dorothy Lehman | Dianne Luecke | Jan Nelson |
| Glenn & Suzie Karnatz | | Eleney Selius |
| Louise Bauer | Warna Berryman | Judy Fuchs |
| Joann Kapugi | George Fuchs | Robert Hamilton, Jr. |
| Dave & Lee Marquardt | | |

Compassion and Sympathy

Prayers and sympathy for Pigors family at the passing of David Pigors May 4th

Other Prayers and Concerns

Our Preschool Staff, Children & Families
Evangelical Lutheran Church & School in Laotchikit, Haiti



Birthday Blessings

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 06/06 Arianna Maloney | 06/18 Jenny Emerson | 06/26 Faith Anderson |
| 06/09 Theresa Doster | 06/19 Diane Sanborn | 06/26 Betty Ude |
| 06/10 Sue Glossop | 06/25 Daniel Kirchoefer | 06/27 Janie McKinley |

Mt. Pisgah Preschool News

June 2021

Graduation plans have been made for June 2 to be held at Jackson Park at 4:30 PM.



Preschool Staff

Years of Service

Over 10 Years

Katherine Montgomery ••• 25 years
(includes church service)
Barbara Graham ••• 15 years
Tiffany Covil ••• 14 years

5 + Years

Lindsay Middleton ••• 9 years
Joyce McAbee ••• 8 years

<5 years

Porcia Austin
Wanda Chaffee
Candace Fisher
Dawn Lane
Jennifer Lane
Taylor McAbee
Rosie Morris

Thank you and may God bless you for all your dedication to the children and parents of our school children!



Thank you for linking your INGLES REWARDS Card to the preschool. Toddler Playground balls, baby sensory balls, crayon paper and reward stickers were redeemed with our points. If you haven't joined, our code number is 30427 on the Ingles home page use "tools for schools" at the bottom of the page.

Preschool News

For the June 2021 Newsletter

The school has updated its camera system and is also updating its lighting to match the rest of the church building.

Preschool Graduation will be held at Jackson Park on Friday, June 4. The church will present each graduate with a children's Bible.

Katherine has been an employee of Mt. Pisgah for 25 years. A celebration was held in her honor at the end of April. We are thankful for all her years of service.



Dear Mt. Pisgan,

Thank you so much for the lovely 25th Anniversary Luncheon and the beautifully engraved clock. The food was delicious and my family and I really enjoyed it. I was especially happy to introduce my twin granddaughters to some of you!

I am looking forward to attaining 30 years before I officially retire.

♡ Katherine

& friends,

Thank you so much for the wonderful Publix lunchboxes. They were so yummy & perfect for our staff. We are thankful to have your support during this school year. We appreciate your kindness & thoughtfulness. Blessings,
Melinda & Sugarleaf Staff

Dear Members of Mount Pisgah

Today I want to take a moment to say Thank You! Thank you for your wonderful generosity throughout the years you have partnered with Daniel & Kathryn Conrad, Dale & Suzanne Kaster, Daniel & Joan Jastram and Dillwyn & Lenita Campbell.

What a blessing each of you are in the Lord's work.

Thank You!
Julie Loehring
Together In Mission

Dear Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for the generous wedding gifts of napkins, flatware, & a cookbook! We are so blessed to have your prayers and support as we begin our marriage and continue our seminary journey. We are excited to use the gifts in our home and try many new recipes together. In Christ,
Scot + Veronica Missling

Dear Saints at Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church,

Thank you!!

Greetings to you! This is a new update from Scot Missling, the 2nd year M.Div student at Concordia Seminary that you have offered to support through the Adopt-A-Student program. I humbled and grateful for the continued financial assistance you provide toward my education as I continue my second year of studies. I would humbly ask for your continued prayers and assistance as I work towards ministry.

On April 28th we celebrated Call Day at Concordia Seminary. After much prayer and anticipation vicarages were assigned in an afternoon service in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus. It was announced that I have been assigned as a Vicar to Living Savior Lutheran Church in Fairfax Station, VA! Veronica and I are thrilled and very must looking forward to our new adventure out on the east coast that will begin in August of this year!

While the news is still fresh and there are sure to be some surprises it seems as though the plan is for me to take an active role in assisting with worship, teaching bible study and confirmation classes, as well as observing and attending various other church events and meetings. This is a large step in my pastoral formation and I am excited to serve God's saints at Living Savior!

The academic year is beginning to wind down and there is much to attend to with final exams and papers. I am also privileged to be preaching at my fieldwork church, Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church, on Pentecost Sunday. I would ask you to pray for me that I may properly preach the word to God's people!

Below is a photo of Veronica and I and also a few of our close seminary friends who received vicarage placements as well on the 28th. Their names are listed in order below the photo – if you could remember these lovely couples in your prayers too as they prepare to go where God has called them!

As always, I would love to hear from you via mail, e-mail, phone call and I hope that you continue to be well and enjoy good health. God is generous to have provided me with supporters like you and I give thanks daily for all of your support.

In Christ,

Scot D. Missling

V | D
M | A



Pictured Left to Right: Jonathan and Molly Lackey, Veronica and I, Jacob and Hope Moore, Kyle and Holly Lewis, and Zach and Latashia Roll

Brothers and sisters in Christ at Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church,

Greetings to you all in the name of our risen Savior Jesus! I'm sure you've heard it countless times, but I will say it here again: This Easter was so much better than Easter 2020. This year, Marie and I were able to worship at St. Paul in Wood River for their Holy Week services. It was so amazing to remember our Lord's death and resurrection together, in-person, as the people of God! We were able to experience the darkness of the sanctuary on Good Friday and the brightness of Easter Sunday! We were able to smell those Easter lilies and feel the building shake as the organ played the triumphant hymns of "Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won," "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today," and "I Know That My Redeemer Lives." We were able to eat and drink Christ's body and blood which gave us the forgiveness of sins and that fresh promise of eternal life. All these, besides Communion, happened last year, but it was just so great to worship our God in person! God be praised!



Looking at the picture in that right-hand corner, you'll see two people who have figured out where they are going on vicarage next year! On Call Day, Wednesday, April 28th, Marie and I were told that I will be serving as the vicar at Peace Lutheran Church in Antigo, WI. We are excited to move up to Wisconsin this summer! We should be moving around mid-July sometime. Despite all the negatives of online worship, a positive is that I can scope out my vicarage church. Even though I have papers and projects I have to work on, I find myself listening to worship services and sermons at Peace in Antigo, WI! I'm very excited to put my learning at the seminary to use as a vicar.

I met with my supervisor, Pastor Dave Karolus, the morning after Call Day for breakfast. He took me to Panera Bread, and we talked about what next year would look like for me. Pastor Dave tells me that I will do a lot of teaching next year! I will teach Religion to a variety of age levels at the school connected to Peace. I will also teach confirmation to the sixth-grade class throughout the entire year. I find teaching to be a very important aspect of what a pastor does, so I'm very excited to get a lot of experience in the classroom. Peace is also just finishing a large building project for their day care program. I'm very excited to help them move into their new building where they will continue serving their community in this way.

As far as Marie and the baby go, she is due any day now! The due date is May 27th, but you know that babies come on their own time. We are both very excited for this baby boy to come into our lives! The nursery is set up and Marie and I are about as prepared as we can be...which doesn't feel like a whole lot! We ask for prayers and continued support as we venture into our vicarage year as new parents!

Finally, as always, Marie and I are very thankful for your care and support of us as we journey through seminary. Our God certainly works in wonderful and mysterious ways! We are thankful that our God has connected us with you and that we have been able to maintain this wonderful relationship of donor and seminarian family. God's blessings to you and your ministry!

In Christ,

Jacob Sipes

To Betty Ude, and to all the members of Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church:

Happy Easter! Greetings from Fort Wayne, in the name of our resurrected savior, Jesus Christ. Katie and I are looking forward to the birth of our newborn child, which will be ANY DAY now! When little Saunders, we will be sure to send you a picture along with a copy of our spring letter.

In the meantime - and perhaps you have already guessed this from the cover of this card - please accept our heartfelt thanks for all of the baby gifts! Especially the handmade

quilt and the pink crocheted blanket. They will be used very soon! Tom is going to baptize the child at the seminary chapel.

There is only a ~~week~~^{month} left in the school year and I am already thinking about my schedule for next year. I am now able to translate the old Testament from Hebrew into English (with help from a dictionary, of course) so that is very exciting. Over the summer I will work in Fort Wayne replacing roofs.

We remain ever grateful for your love and support. Love, Erik, Katie, and Baby Saunders

The Saunder's were blessed with a baby boy, Stephen Ambrose, on April 27th. Pastor Olson will baptize Stephen in the Chapel at the Sea.

Dear donor,
I can't tell you enough about how much your donations help my family while my husband is busy studying God's word.

Thank you so much & God bless you!

-Peter, Taitlyn, Moses & Naomi Preus

A big hug and God's Blessings of grat. Ude to you all for all your prayers for our family. Aquis is doing so much better. Happy and relieved to be over the thyroid surgery. It's just a matter of God's timetable and our continued hope and prayers! The B16 news is, Dean has been hired by an airline and we all just about cried & danced with joy! So the road ahead for the Dean/Kenneth family will be in process! ♥-

Again & Again - our heart felt grat. Ude for the power of prayer via Mt Pisgah Lutheran Church!!

Raji & Jenna

Mission of the Month
Blue Ridge Prison & Jail Ministries



Our Vision:

To minister in prayer to men and women, by way of identifying the deep-rooted needs that leads to destructive behavior and provide biblical and ethical solutions in order to break the cycle and provide a new way of life.

To do our part to enforce, enhance, and complete the overall purpose and duty of our judicial and penal system. To not only incarcerate but also rehabilitate.

Our Goal: To reach inmates and their families across our state.



LWML RUMMAGE SALE

June 19th 9 AM- 2 PM

We are ready for YOU to start dropping off your gently used items for the LWML rummage sale. Please put your items in the back of the fellowship hall. We will be holding the sale in the fellowship hall instead of outdoors this year.

Sorry, but we are not accepting heavy furniture, clothing or TV's.

If you need help, call Debby Zagone or Lydia Cassidy. We will pick up your donations for you!

LAIDES GUILD

Ladies Guild will be having a potluck luncheon on June 14th at 12 noon. They will complete their project of providing care kits for the homeless. Please join us. This will be our last meeting for the summer. Don't forget the yard sale - please contributed items and then come and purchase something. All proceeds are used for mission projects.

Also a small recap of Outreach/Community Concerns project of Sugar Loaf Elementary (school supplies - both students and teachers- and the final boxed luncheon for anyone who works for the school. (75 people in all).

FINANCIAL NEWS



On May 23rd, we received \$3246 in general offerings. In May, we have received \$15,092. Year to date we have received \$113,353. Budget YTD would be \$114,240. The new budget amount needed for 2021 is \$5440 per week to cover expenses.

Thank you for your continued support of our church.

Sunday School

The children resumed classes in September and the adult Bible study has resumed as of May 1st. We currently have 7 children attending Sunday school.

We have three different classes offered for the children. The elementary age children are currently using Concordia curriculum, the middle school age girls are involved in reading the book "Girl Perfect", and high school age is studying the Bible.

The adults have two different Bible studies. One on Wednesday nights and the other during the Sunday school hour.

Goody bags were passed out on Christmas Eve for the children and on Easter Sunday we had an egg hunt.

We continue to remember our homebound with crafts, cards, and notes throughout the year

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Sanborn

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Via Telephone Conference

April 22, 2021 at 7 p.m.

Steve Kirchoefer opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was declared.

Council members present: Steve Kirchoefer, Barbara Volk, Robert Hamrick, Sylvia Gonzalez, Homero Gonzalez, Judy Morin, Jan Tharp, Diane Sanborn, Kathy Kirchoefer, Lydia Cassidy, and Leah Ryel

Others present: Pastor Jon Christensen, Robert Morin

Absent: John Zagone, Wendy White

Jan Tharp offered the devotions. The Vision Statement was read by Steve Kirchoefer.

Minutes of the March 18, 2021 meeting were approved with correction of Camp Linn Haven (from Lind Haven).

Sylvia Gonzalez presented the March 2021 Financial News, and the Financial Reports as of March 31, 2021 (attached).

The March Income Statement shows a net income of \$42,814. The Church had a gain of \$16,106. The Preschool had a gain of \$26,708. Both gains were mostly due to the PPP Coverage of the payroll expense for March. YTD net gain is \$75,280. We will continue to include offering numbers in the Wednesday e-mails.

For March, we had 4 Sundays and 2 payrolls. Offerings were \$6,310 above budget based on a 4-Sunday month. Those are a true blessing. We did not receive any State Supplement money for the Preschool for March.

Second Round of PPP Loan/Grants:

The dedicated PPP account has a balance of \$25,164 at March 31. This balance will be exhausted with April payroll coverage. March payroll coverage totaled \$14,291 for the Church and \$31,792 for the preschool. These funds appear on the Statement of Income & Expense for March, as "Other Income."

The bank originally didn't need information uploaded, but now does, so Sylvia has been sending documentation to them.

New Cleaning Service:

We elected to change cleaning company, after receiving a lower bid from Jan-Pro. We signed a 6-month contract with them, saving \$96/month. Please, let us know if you see anything that does not look up to par. They will begin cleaning in May. Kathy questioned whether the Preschool was still cleaning bathrooms. They are. The staff is doing some cleaning, between scheduled times for Jan-Pro to work, which they agreed to do to save the Church some money.

Dedicated Gifts Account:

This dedicated account will be used to maintain funds for the new Fellowship Hall flooring and the new audio/video equipment. As of the end of March, there was a balance of \$824 in this account. Additional funds have been received in April, to bring the balance to \$21,957. The flooring quote is approximately \$16,500, so the balance will be available for the new audio/video equipment.

CD Interest:

Interesting news. As of first quarter of 2021, we have made \$1,271 in interest on the 2 Church CD's and \$1,695 in interest on the 2 Preschool CD's. Interest will be posted when they mature in May 2022.

Pastor Christensen had an oral report. He spoke about the letter from the President of the Synod, and The Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty, to which individuals can contribute.

Elders' Report (attached) by John Zagone was given by Pastor. (a) No outlook on any change to current policies about attendance & masked trends. If (after people are vaccinated) attendance numbers increase to require it, we could add a 3rd Service. (b) Response to President Harrison's letter (e-mailed to all). Response should be a congregational activity and not something specifically sponsored by Elders.

Outreach & Community Concerns report (attached) was presented by Jan Tharp. A check for \$210 was sent to Thrive, March's MOM. April's MOM is First Contact Addiction Ministries. May's is undetermined. Outreach Community Concerns has a balance of \$1,029. Lunch for staff at Sugarloaf Elementary on 5/5 will take most of this money. \$300 was also sent to Selah Grave Henderson, of Henderson County, who has had cancer recur. Her Mother's a single parent. We and Parish Life sent Easter baskets to shut-ins. Cards are sent to shut-ins & those on the sick/surgery list. Three visitors were given pens and information packets.

There was no Education report from Diane Sanborn.

Early Childhood report (attached) was by Kathy Kirchoefer. Katherine Montgomery reported that the school has 53 children enrolled. Staff training is scheduled for 4/30. Camera system is being updated. New lighting for school was requested. Graduation is at Jackson Park, at 4 p.m. on 6/2. COVID limits have been reached, so Church members will be out in the open, socially distanced. The Board is updating the staff handbook for the school. Interested Board members will meet with Katherine, and Jennifer Lane (a former Director), to review needed changes. Staff anniversaries will be recognized with a greeting and gift card. Katherine has invited the Board to help with evaluations. She & Kathy will work that out. Lighting request was discussed; Steve made a motion to take it to Church Council. Board would like for Church to consider paying half the cost of the update. Discussion of Katherine's anniversary, with question about gift presentation. Board briefly discussed potential changes to school. One of our staff is Porcia, a former student.

There was no report from Stewardship. Wendy White was absent.

There was also no report from Missions, due to Wendy White's absence.

Parish Life report (attached) was by Lydia Cassidy. 30 Easter baskets were delivered to members unable to attend Church. They were very well received by all recipients. Sylvia, Jan, Kathy, and Leah spoke of the joy of those who received Easter baskets they delivered. Another basket project will be done, for Friendship Sunday, 8/1. Katherine Montgomery's 25th anniversary luncheon is being planned for her years of service to Church and Preschool. It will be held 4/30 at Noon.

Board of Inside Property report (attached) was by Judy Morin. Kitchen counters are installed & look terrific. Additional \$235 is needed for their cost. Paul Mincer continues to work on some stubborn cabinet doors. Sylvia says the current kitchen account balance is negative \$377, which includes some plumbing costs. Additional plumbing for stoves' gas pipes will not come from that fund. Work in the Parish Hall was well received (ceiling repair & painting, added crown molding & new lights). **At tonight's meeting, Judy said that counters are paid for.** With curtains down, windows look really good. The stained glass windows at the back of the room could be put in wooden boxes with lights.

Motion #1:

Steve recommends that we investigate a way to display the stained glass windows. Seconded by Jan, & approved.

Questions remain about curtains, also possibly making window boxes to house stained glass windows in the back. Dark flooring has received more positive response, but the choice of floor covering color is undecided. Lights for the Sacristy have been scheduled; replacing 8 lights will soon be scheduled; cost is \$585.

There was no Outside Property report by Homero Gonzalez, but he said that there will be much to report next time.

Old Business:

Motion #2:

Steve proposed, to pay for the Audio System improvements to be paid for by the balance of the funds that were donated for the flooring and the audio system. Motion seconded by Kathy, & approved.

Motion #3:

Steve proposed improving the sanctuary sound system, and moving the old system to the choir room for recording there. Initially, he would like to spend \$2,200 for a new sound board, & other parts, for a total of about \$3,000. Motion seconded by Jan, & approved.

New Business:

Motion #4:

Kathy proposed that school pay half, and Church pay the other half to update School lighting. The cost is about \$5,000. Steve seconded the motion.

Diane asked where the funds would come from. Sylvia said that the Church's half of this lighting cost could be split and covered by the Maintenance Fund and Dedicated Asset Replacement Fund.

Amendment to Motion #4:

Motion #3 was amended by Sylvia, to state that the Church's half of the cost could be covered with half coming from the Maintenance Fund & the other half from Dedicated Asset Replacement Fund. Steve again seconded the motion, which was approved.

There was discussion about the celebration of Katherine's 25 years with the Church and Preschool. Lydia said that there will be a meal with a cake, and 43 have signed up to be at the meal, including some of Katherine's family. Kathy asked Leah to write something about Katherine for the event. Jan offered to get in touch with Leah, too, since she had been on the Preschool Board for several years, too.

Next meeting will be held May 22, 2021. Barbara will offer devotions. Steve said that it will be held via Teleconference.

There was discussion about the Semi-Annual Voters' Assembly, which will be held @ 9:30 a.m. on 6/13, between Services.

At 8:02 p.m., Steve closed the meeting with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Leah Ryel
Recording Secretary

BUTTERSCOTCH ICEBOX PIE - from Mary Kaufman

CRUST INGREDIENTS:

1 2/3 Cups Graham Cracker Crumbs
1/4 C Sugar
6 Tablespoons butter, melted

Combine well, then press evenly onto the bottom and up the sides of a 9" pie pan. Set aside.

BUTTERSCOTCH PIE FILLING:

1/2 c. brown sugar
3 Tbsp. Cornstarch
1/8 tsp. salt
2 c. Whole milk (divided)
2 egg yolks, beaten
2 Tbsp. real Butter
1 1/2 tsp. real vanilla

Directions:

In a medium saucepan combine sugar, cornstarch, and salt. Stir in 1 C. milk, slowly, stirring out any lumps. To the other cup of milk, add the egg yolks, and whisk until well combined. Stir the egg yolk/ milk mixture into the milk and sugar mixture in the pan. Cook over medium heat —whisking CONSTANTLY— until mixture begins to boil. Cook 1 minute. Remove from heat. Add butter and vanilla, stirring gently to combine.

Pour filling into prepared crust. Place wax paper directly on top of the filling (to keep a skim from forming) and refrigerate for at least 4 hours.

Remove wax paper. Serve with whipped cream, or other whipped topping of choice.

Can also drizzle whipped cream with butterscotch sundae topping and sprinkle with chopped toasted pecans, if desired.

Grandma's Observation about Hands

Have you ever looked at your hands," she asked. "I mean really looked at your hands?"

I slowly opened my hands and stared down at them.
I turned them over, palms up and then palms down.

No, I guess I had never really looked at my hands
as I tried to figure out the point she was making....

Grandma smiled and related this story:

"Stop and think for a moment about the hands you have,
how they have served you well throughout your years.
These hands, though wrinkled shriveled and weak
have been the tools I have used all my life to reach out and grab and embrace life.

"They braced and caught my fall when as a toddler I crashed upon the floor.

They put food in my mouth and clothes on my back.
As a child, my mother taught me to fold them in prayer.
They tied my shoes and pulled on my boots.
They held my husband and wiped my tears when he went off to war.

"They have been dirty, scraped and raw , swollen and bent.
They were uneasy and clumsy when I tried to hold my newborn son.
Decorated with my wedding band they showed the world that I was married
and loved someone special.

They wrote my letters to him and trembled and shook when I buried my parents and spouse.

"They have held my children and grandchildren,
consoled neighbors, and shook in fists of anger when I didn't understand.

They have covered my face, combed my hair,
and washed and cleansed the rest of my body.
They have been sticky and wet, bent and broken, dried and raw.
And to this day when not much of anything else of me works real well
these hands hold me up, lay me down, and again continue to fold in prayer.

"These hands are the mark of where I've been and the ruggedness of life.
But more importantly it will be these hands
that God will reach out and take when he leads me home.
And with my hands He will lift me to His side
and there I will use these hands to touch the face of Christ."

I will never look at my hands the same again.

But I remember God reached out and took my grandma's hands and led her home.

When my hands are hurt or sore or when I stroke the face of my children and husband
When I think of grandma. I know she has been stroked and caressed and held by the hands of
God. I, too, want to touch the face of God and feel His hands upon my face.

Church Audio and Video Recording upgrades

One of the consequences of this past year has been an increased reliance on technology to support the worship life of the church. While we have been able to meet much of this need, the experience has exposed weaknesses in our equipment that we need to address.

Specifically:

The sanctuary audio equipment is of advanced age. The sound board, audio equalizer, microphone power supply, and amplifiers are all approaching 30 years of age. The sound board in particular is composed of many controls that, when adjusted frequently, do not perform well. This equipment needs replacing. The total cost of this part of the project, with installation, is about \$4000.

The sanctuary video has been supported primarily by the use of cell phone cameras. We need some fixed position cameras with appropriate support electronics. The cost of that part of the project is about \$5000.

We have developed a need to provide music recording and playback for worship services. While essential during the pandemic, we would like to continue this in the future so as to be able to provide choir music at the early service on Sunday as well as for other special services. This will require equipping the choir room with the necessary recording equipment. The audio equipment and room modification portion itself is around \$1000, but to make this work without using private equipment, we will need a laptop computer. A laptop is also needed to support for other A/V support, so that item will find many uses. It will cost about \$1000.

Due to the generous support of our members, we have already ordered the sanctuary audio equipment, which should be installed in the next few months. We want to do the choir recording support next, as that gives us the most direct benefits. Lastly, we want to obtain the video equipment needed to continue providing remote worship support for our congregation.

We are collecting a designated offering to enable this project. If you wish to contribute, mark a separate offering envelope for "AV Equipment" and place your contribution with the regular offerings.

JUNE

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|--|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | | 1 | 2 Women's Bible Study 10 AM Prayer Shawl 1 PM Evening Bible Study 7 PM | 3 Quilter's Ministry 9 AM | 4 Mission Board Meeting 1 PM | 5 |
| 6 Communion 8 AM Children Sunday School 9:15 AM Communion 10:45 AM | 7 | 8 Elder's Meeting 7 PM | 9 Women's Bible Study 10 AM Evening Bible Study 7 PM | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 Communion 8 AM Children Sunday School 9:15 AM Communion 10:45 AM | 14 Ladies Guild 1 PM | 15 | 16 Women's Bible Study 10 AM Evening Bible Study 7 PM | 17 Quilter's Ministry 9 AM | 18 | 19 LWLM Yard Sale 9 AM- 2 PM |
| 20 Communion 8 AM Children Sunday School 9:15 AM Communion 10:45 AM | 21 | 22 | 23 Women's Bible Study 10 AM Evening Bible Study 7 PM | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 Communion 8 AM Children Sunday School 9:15 AM Communion 10:45 AM | 28 | 29 | 30 Women's Bible Study 10 AM Evening Bible Study 7 PM | | | |