Dear members of St. James, we are still in a state of social distancing so we are continuing to have Facebook live services on Sundays at 9:00am at least until the end of July. We will **discontinue the Wednesday services after June 24th**. [June 24th will be the last one posted.]  **On July 5th we will be having only one service on Sundays at 9:00am as Pastor Petrich will be helping out at St. Paul’s in Pipestone as vacancy pastor and holding a 10:30am service there.** He can give private Communion to those who so wish as he does for shut-ins, either at the church or at your home. Please call him if you so desire.

**The protocols we are following are posted at the door and available on the table.**  They were sent out in the last newsletter.

Other things will be announced once you arrive. Every service will be a communion service, and communion will be delivered to each family in the pew. If you do not wish to receive communion that day, please let the ushers know. Hymnals will not be present in the pew, but if you want to bring one from home each service you may. If you want to check one out at the door, they will be available there and you can take one home with you. Service folders will have the words of each hymn printed out for you.

We will not be publishing our service information any place other than here. If pastor or his wife comes down with COVID-19 as of now, we will not have services until he can conduct them again. IF you have already reserved a spot, you will be called to let you know that we will not have service that day.

You may not be afraid because of your faith or your good health, but others may be struggling. Respect their fears, seek to encourage them, and pray for them. St. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 8:9-13 “But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.” In exercising your freedom do not harm the faith of those who are weaker. These services are for those who wish to come. Any member who does not want to attend at this time are not to be looked down upon or mocked. No one is obliged to come if they do not feel safe and we will continue to live-stream for those who stay at home so they can still participate.

If I become aware of a clear, immediate, and imminent threat to the safety of those attending, or I observe that the protocols are not being observed, the gathering will be canceled until they can be observed. This includes evidence of a flare-up in Pipestone County.

**Some options include: viewing “Main Street Living” at 10:00 am Sundays on KDLT-NBC Sioux Falls or on the web at** [**www.mainstreetliving.com**](http://www.mainstreetliving.com)**. “This Is the Life” also is aired at 10:00am on Sundays. The Sunday morning service at St. Paul’s in Pipestone is aired on radio on KLOH 1050AM at 11:30am.**

**Included in this issue are some upcoming services lessons and hymns: If you need a hymnal, please stop by the church and sign-out a hymnal. Portals of prayer are also in the entryway.**

**Pastor will be available in the church office Monday and Wednesdays from 9:00am-Noon** to receive calls and set-up appointments to meet with families or for any other spiritual concerns or questions. On **Tuesdays and Thursdays he will be in the office at St. Paul Lutheran in Pipestone** from 9:00am-Noon. If he is out of the office a note will be posted as to when he might return. The elders will be monitoring the situation and bring updates as needed through KLOH radio 1050am and our web page at “stjamesholland.com” or on facebook under St. James Lutheran Church.

**In His Service, Pastor Petrich**

**From a Distance?**

There was a popular song not too long ago which used the phrase "God is watching you from a distance." It implied that God is very benevolent and caring but isn't too personally involved in His peoples’ lives. Oh, once and a while he may perform a miracle here or there to help, (or prevent some evil from happening) but basically he is a hand's-off overseer who lets others do what needs to be done. After all he has his angels in heaven to do his bidding and his followers on earth to do what needs to be done here. This corona virus pandemic reinforces the basic concept: that we’re really on our own to solve any problem here.

A few weeks ago the Christian church celebrated Christ's ascension into heaven. At first glance this too reinforces this misconception about God. Jesus has accomplished his work on earth and ascends into heaven as his reward for a job well-done. He is now sitting at the right hand of God, a seat of honor and glory and, (perhaps more importantly,) a seat of rest. It's retirement for Him and now he can do whatever he wants and revel in what he has accomplished.

But the right hand of God is not just a seat of honor or glory alone. Jesus is not sitting on something like the front of the first class section of the airplane. He is sitting in the plane's pilot's seat. Scriptures describe the right hand of God in terms of dominion and power. Whoever sits there is lord over all and rules with authority and power. Ephesians 4:10 tells us that he who sits at God's right hand "fills all things." Likewise in Ephesians 1:20-23 he is described as head over all things.

Christ's ascension to God's right hand is his way to serve even more. He now rules the world for the benefit of God’s children. All things are now subject to Jesus. This same Jesus who rules also loves. He showed how much he loved by becoming man and suffering and dying on the cross for our sins and rising from the dead. He came to earth that we might know how greatly God loves everyone. He is a God who is actively involved in the lives of His Children.

His ascension enables Him to be with us in greater ways than before. He ascended so that He could send the Comforter, His Holy Spirit. It enables Him to now be with all who believe in Him wherever they may be at the same time. So, God is now not only with us but in us. We received His Spirit in our Baptism as a gift. We are never alone. We don't need to go running here or there to find or see Jesus. He abides in us and will never leave us. We rejoice that we again can gather regularly to remember and celebrate God’s coming again and again into our lives. We gather to remember our baptism into Christ and receive His body and blood in Holy Communion. Look in His Word and remember where he tells us he will be: in and with us always, even to the end of the world.

***Sunday Lessons and Hymns***

**Sunday June 28th**: Psalm 119:153-160; Jeremiah 28:5-9; Romans 7:1-13; Matt. 10:34-42

LSB Pg. 151 HYMNS: #836 “O God of Light, Your Word””; #685 “Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”; #659 “Lord of Our Life and God of Our Salvation” Distribution: #623 “Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray”; #682 “God of the Prophets”; #688 “ ‘Come Follow Me’”.

**Sunday July 5th:** Ps. 145:1-14; Zechariah 9:9-12; Romans 7:14-25a; Matthew 11:25-30

LSB Pg. 184 HYMNS: #834 “O God, O Lord, of Heaven and Earth”; #570 “Just As I Am”; #698 “May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill” Distr.: #622 “Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared”; #684 “Come Unto Me Ye Weary”; #618 “I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table”

**Sunday July 12th:** Psalm 65:9-13; Isaiah 55:10-13; Romans 8:12-17; Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

LSB Pg.151 HYMNS: #577 “Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast”; #686 “Come, Thou Fount of Ev’ry Blessing”; #502 “Holy Spirit, the Dove Sent from Heaven”; Distr.: #901 “Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”; #643 “Sent Forth By God’s Blessing”; #921 “On What Has Now Been Sown”

**Sunday July 19th** : Ps. 119:57-64; Isaiah 44:6-8; Romans 8:18-27; Matthew 13:24-30,36-43 LSB Pg. 184 HYMNS: #659 “Lord of Our Life and God of Our Salvation”; #663 “Rise My Soul to Watch and Pray”; #827 “Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling”; Distr: #892 “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”; #809 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”; #677 “For All the Saints”

**Songs for Wednesday, June 24th Bible Books**

**“The Butterfly Song”**

1. If I were a butterfly, I’d thank you Lord for making me wings.

And If I were a robin in a tree, I’d thank you Lord that I can sing.

And if I were a fish in the sea, I’d wiggle my tail and I’d giggle with glee,

But I just thank you Father for making me, me!

**Chorus:** For you gave me a heart and you gave me a smile,

You gave me Lord Jesus and you made me His child,

But I just thank you Father for making me, me!

1. If I were an elephant, I’d thank you Lord for raising my trunk,

and if I were a kangaroo, I’d hoppity-hoppity-hop right up to you,

And if I were an octopus, I’d thank you Lord for my good looks.

But I just thank you Father for making me, me! (CHO)

1. If I were a squiggly-wiggly worm, I’d thank you Lord that I could squirm.

And if I were a fuzzy-wuzzy bear, I’d thank you Lord for my fuzzy-wuzzy hair.

And if I were a crocodile, I’d thank you Lord for my big smile.

But I just thank you Father for making me, me! (CHO)

**“Who’s the King of the Jungle”**

Who’s the King of the jungle? (Ooh! Ooh!)

Who’s the King of the Sea? (Bubble, bubble, bubble)

Who’s the King of the universe?And who’s the King of me?

His name is J-E-S-U-S! (Yes!) He’s the King of me.

He’s the King of the universe, the jungle and the sea.

He’s the King of the jungle. (Ooh! Ooh!)

He’s the King of the sea. (Bubble, bubble, bubble)

He’s the King of the universe. And He’s the King of me.

**“I Am Special”**

1. I am special. **I am special**. God sent me. **God sent me.**

To my mom and daddy. **To my mom and daddy**. They love me. **They love me.**

1. It’s a new day. **It’s a new day**. Given by God. **Given by God**

Join the celebration. **Join the celebration**. Sing His praises! **Sing His praise**!

**“Are You Lost in the Dark”**

Are you lost in the dark? Do you need a little spark?

Do you need a little light to help you see?

Out of the darkness Jesus love is shining

Down in the hearts of you and me.

Chorus: He is the light that's shining bright,

He's the truth that set the captive free.

He is the light that gives us sight.

And reveals the Father's love to you and me.

**“I Am A ‘C’”**

I am a C, I am a C - H, I am a C - H - R - I - S - T - I - A - N,

and I have C - H - R - I - S - T in my H - E - A -R - T

and I will L - I - V - E E - T - E - R - N - A - L - L - Y.

**“My God Is So Great”**

\*My God is so great, so strong and so mighty!

There's nothing my God cannot do!\* \*REPEAT\*

The mountains are His, the rivers are His, the stars are His handiwork too,

My God is so great, so strong and so mighty! There's nothing my God cannot do!\*

Also: **LSB#588** “Jesus Loves Me”