# PARISH LIFE APRIL 2020



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The Divine Service can be heard live every Sunday at 9am on WCFW 105.7FM

"But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, 'Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen'... and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest." (Luke 24:1-6a, 9)

What a joyous thing these words are! He is not here (in the tomb) but has risen! Is there any better news than to hear that someone you love dearly is not dead and buried as you thought, but is instead alive and well? I can't imagine any. Well, except perhaps the even greater news that Christ's death and resurrection have made it so that you also will live in Him for all eternity because all of your sins have been paid for and are forgiven!

With all the sadness and concern surrounding us these days because of the Coronavirus we need good news. With the increasing isolation that is being required to keep us healthy, we need to know that we are never alone. With the constant news reports of an ever increasing death toll from the virus, we need to know that despite what our eyes tell us, we are not among the dead, and that we shouldn't seek the living amongst the dead as the women were doing on the first Easter morning.

Of course, when they were seeking Jesus on Easter morning, they had absolutely no reason to believe that the body of Jesus wouldn't be there. They didn't, indeed couldn't, understand what Jesus had been teaching them until all was fulfilled and the Holy Spirit opened the eyes of their faith to connect the dots. So, they approached the tomb of Jesus expecting to finish the burial rites that had been put on hold because of the Sabbath.

God had different plans. He turned their grief and sadness into joy and gladness. They were still confused and in shock as they processed the impossible (humanly speaking). But the Lord Jesus was not dead but risen and with them always!

Likewise, even though our celebration of Jesus' resurrection from the dead won't take place in the ways that we are accustomed to celebrating. We will celebrate. Instead of all of us gathering together as one on Easter morning, we will be more like the disciples on that first Easter. Alone, isolated with our families, longing for some good news. Longing for news that life will continue and even get better. Into our places of isolation, the good news comes. Jesus is not dead, He has risen! And even now He is with you giving you His love and comfort. Christ is with you giving you the gift of forgiveness. And as the reformers so correctly pointed out, and I love to repeat, where there is forgiveness, there is life and salvation.

So, for a season, we are all locked in our upper rooms to protect us from the Coronavirus. But eventually, God will free us so that we can live as He created us to live. As forgiven children of God, who for love of God and love of neighbor use the gifts God has given us to take care of one another and all of creation as we fulfill the many and various vocations that He has given to each of us. In the meantime, use this time to prepare by praying, reading the Bible, studying the Catechism, and calling to check up on your family in Christ. Use this time to continue to receive the gifts that Christ freely gives as you listen to church on the radio and hold your own family devotions. God is good and He will see you through this time of tribulation. Amen

Blessings in Christ Jesus, Pastor Jones



Schoelzel, Mandy	4/1
Peterson, Kathy	4/3
Taylor, Lydia	4/4
Rose, Pam	4/11
Gale, MMNC James	4/13
Myers, Reid	4/15
Welke, Rachel	4/15
Heisinger, Jacob	4/16
Blake, Rosa	4/20
Kvapil, Jayden	4/20
Jones, Tabatha	4/22
Heisinger, Kaitlyn	4/23
Tyynismaa, Grayson	4/25
Benson, Tom	4/28
Sundell, Carol	4/29

## Women's Society



Women's Society met on Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. After the table prayer was said by Pastor Jones, Elaine Lorentzen served Lemon Cake and Rice Krispie Bars with all the trimmings. Thank you, Elaine. Everything was delicious. Pastor Jones then had a Bible Study on the Liturgy-Part 2; Structure on the Liturgy-Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow, with a discussion after.

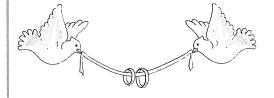
Arlene Hakes opened our meeting with 9 members present plus Pastor Jones. The minutes were read and approved from our last meeting on February 13<sup>th</sup>.

Old Business: We signed up to furnish the Radio Broadcast on Easter, the  $12^{\text{th}}$  of April. The Altar Clothes have not been ordered yet.

New Business: Our next meeting will be on April 16<sup>th</sup> because the 9<sup>th</sup> is Maundy Thursday. Rosa and Arlene will serve.

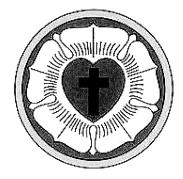
We closed with The Lord's Prayer. Guests are always welcome!

Cookie Ziebarth Secretary



### Happy Anniversary

Ken & Rosa Blake 4/12/58 Brad & Becky Blake 4/30/94



# <u>Please Remember our Homebound and Semi-Homebound</u> <u>Family</u>

JoAnn Ehlers Robert Jacobson
Audrey Kallbreier Dorothy Liddell
Phyllis Pangborn Doris Post
Richard Taylor Ethel Vance



#### The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

#### LCMS Stewardship Ministry

#### Newsletter Article – April 2020

On the topic of stewardship, one of the most common questions a person might ask is *not* whether a Christian should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Of course, Christians should give to their church.

The most common question: "How much should I give?" But what they really mean is this: "Should Christians give a tithe of their income to their local congregation?" So, let's look at why you should or should not tithe.

Following are some reasons often offered for why Christians *shouldn't* give a tithe to their church.

Some say you shouldn't tithe because it isn't expressly commanded in the New Testament. Lacking that command, there is no "Thus saith the Lord" and no "should" for giving a tithe to your congregation.

Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these, together with treasures (money), add up to more than a tithe.

Still others say they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church.

And there are those who think Christians shouldn't tithe because of fear. If they tithe, they are afraid their gift will be misused, and they are afraid they won't have enough to get the things they use, want, or need.

Following are some reasons for why Christians should give a tithe to their church.

Even though the New Testament doesn't specifically command Christians to give a tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to tithe and did. On top of this, St. Paul often describes the giving Christians are to do in similar terms as a tithe: a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of their income (1 Cor. 6:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:7–23; 2 Cor. 9:2–7).

But here's another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? The reason for the Old Testament tithe was to support the full ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry.

What does it say in the New Testament? "The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther put

in the *Small Catechism*'s Table of Duties to cover what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we're not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let's answer this by asking a different question about something entirely different. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? There, is after all, no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest we have, and it states simply for Christians to not neglect gathering together. Even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments. It is the goal.

So, what would you say to that son or daughter? I'd expect that conversation would be something like this: "I'm glad you're still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God's promises of forgiveness, life, and salvation, and to receive His gifts in the Word and the Sacraments. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I'd really like you to try to attain it."

This same conversation is how we should approach the topic of the tithe. It's not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, the church is ecstatic that you're giving when you're giving in all these ways – time, talents, and treasures.

### Serving the Lord in

# **ASIA**

### **News from the Jastrams**

February/March 2020



PLUM BLOSSOMS, JAPANESE PRELUDE TO CHERRY BLOSSOMS

#### Dear Friends,

A lot has been happening here in Asia since last we communicated! Of course, the coronavirus, or COVID-19 has loomed large in it all. Thank you for your concern and prayers as we live through the uncertainties and disruptions in daily life that are accompanying the outbreak. Initially, the disruptions were small—cancellation of sporting and cultural events, the staggering of work start times, but more recently very substantial adjustments, such as the rather abrupt cancellation of the last two weeks of school, which left parents scrambling to adjust schedules and make appropriate arrangements within a three-day period. (I do hear our neighbor boys in the apartment above us a lot more these days!) We've been informed that more change is to come next week when the government announces new measures to be implemented. It is preoccupying and as a consequence energy-draining some days. Nevertheless, we remain in good health and the work continues—despite some extra twists and turns.

#### THE PHILIPPINES

With the start of February, Dan's travel to the Philippines moved forward without any hitches. As you may recall, he was slated to substitute-teach at their seminary for Rev. Roger James, who is on Dan's team in Asia as an LCMS theological educator, while Roger was in the States working towards completion of his doctorate in Missiology. It is always a pure joy for Dan to teach, and this round was no except as he taught a unit on the "Freedom of the Will", another on "Soteriology—The Way of Salvation", and another on "The Small Catechism—Table of Duties."

The day before we left the Philippines, the government banned all flights to Hong Kong, but placed no restriction on travel (back) to Japan, for which we were hugely relieved, especially because, at that point Japan already had a number of infections, including people on the Diamond Princess cruise ship at port in Yokohama, so we were concerned.

#### NETWORK SUPPORT BUILDING

Another development just before leaving the Philippines and after a talk with his regional director, was that Dan and I would need to alter our summer plans. Dan would need to head back to the States as soon as possible,

which turns out to be this next Monday, March 9th, for a two to three month home service! He plans to visit new congregations in Missouri, Illinois and Wisconsin. The two-pronged goal of his trip is to eliminate the deficit in our NSM account and increase our base of support by 30%, both of which are necessary to get our NSM account to a sustainable level for the long term. This goal has been challenging because Dan has a larger than average missionary budget, due in part to higher than average expenses associated with living Japan (both tax-wise and cost of living) as well as expenses associated with his managerial work. We are making very good progress on these two goals thanks to folks like you!

#### UNEXPECTED BLESSING

When we got back to Japan we decided to focus all our energies during this short period of time on reducing the deficit as much as possible before Dan headed to the States. We were overwhelmed to have received pledges and donations that we believe are bringing us close to getting out of the red by the end of April—more than we had hoped or prayed for. Thank you so much! This was our unexpected blessing from God through you, His people. Still in the future is the home service work of building new support to sustain us for the next two years.

#### **CURRENT MISSION WORK PROGRESS**

Dan also continues to make exciting progress in his visitation with Lutheran congregations and pastors for strength and encouragement in teaching and practice of the faith. More details to come when Dan returns.

#### AND UPON HIS RETURN

Projects he will be tackling include coordination of our OIM-Asia work of eighty project proposals for Lutheran literature and resources for the churches in Asia. We want to strengthen and equip our partner churches for their ministry and practice of the Christian faith.

#### PLEASE PRAY FOR

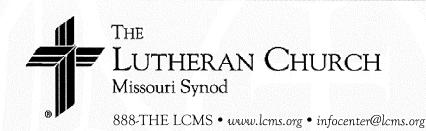
- Dan's colleagues and their families, missionaries <u>Hans Trinklein</u> and <u>Carl Hanson</u>, in the <u>COVID-19 stricken</u> country of South Korea as they continue to serve the Lord under great hardships these days.
- Dan's safe travels to the States, and good health and stamina for his visits to congregations in Missouri, Illinois, and Wisconsin.
- Good health and spirits while I hold down the fort in Japan.

We keep you, our friends and partners in this mission work, in our prayers also, first and foremost that you stay strong in your faith and close to God's Word and Sacrament that connect us to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

God's richest blessings!

Dan and Joan Jastram Your LCMS missionaries

To financially support Asia LCMS mission work, please consider adding us to your congregation's mission budget as a Together in Mission partner (Call 888-930-4438 for details.) You may also start, continue, or increase your financial support securely online through our secure LCMS website, <a href="mailto:lcms.org/jastram">lcms.org/jastram</a>. Thank you!

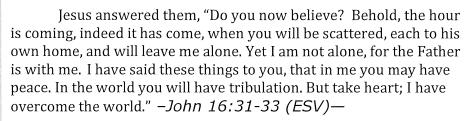


#### News from the Rickman Family serving in Latin America

Webpage: www.lcms.org/rickman Email: Arthur.Rickman@lcms.org

#### **Letters from Latin America**

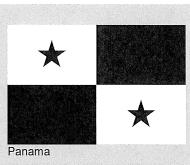
Dear Brothers and Sisters,



Over the past few weeks, travel bans have been put in place, orders have been given for isolation and social distancing, and fears have increased as we all await the unknown. Many are asking how long this will go on, will their friends and families be ok, and what effect this will have on our lives in the future?

We can take comfort in knowing that none of us are alone in thinking or asking these questions. Indeed, the question, "How long, O Lord, how long?" reverberates through the Psalms. While no one has the answers, we can take comfort in God's unchanging Word. His very Son, the Word made flesh, Immanuel, reminds us that God continues to be with each and every one of us. We are isolated, but certainly not alone!

While we are unable to gather together in person with the Body of Christ in worship, God still comes to us through His Word and thanks to the tools of this digital age, there are so many ways we can all stay connected with one another. God is with us and we all continue to be one in the Body of Christ, looking forward to the day when we can see each other face-to-face. Until then, we continue to use the technology we have to keep in touch with God's people and offer each other encouragement from His Word. May the peace that comes from God alone be with you all, especially during this time when we all remain scattered in our own homes.





Colombia



Mexico

....and other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email message to <a href="mailto:arthur.rickman@lcms.org">arthur.rickman@lcms.org</a> with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.



# Requests, Praises, and Thanks

- ...for health and safety for our family as we serve.
- ...pray for the seminarians, vicars and deaconess students throughout Latin America who continue their studies online.
- ...for the safe return of our family to Panama once travel bans are lifted.
- ...thanks for the grace and eternal promises from the one who gives us all good things.
- ...thanks for improved health for Nathaniel and Mary Anna.
- ...thanks for all who make it possible for us to serve.
- ...for all those affected by this illness.

### Rickman Family Update

Due to the travel bans, our family will be unable to return to Panama for at least the next 30 days as Panama closed its boarders and shut-down its airport. Currently, our family is stranded and sheltering in place in the Houston area. Under normal circumstances, this would distance us from the work, but since everything is now moving digitally, we can remain fully engaged. We have been in contact with members, pastors and church leaders in all the countries we serve as well as our mission team throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Overall, everyone is doing well, observing a similar isolation.

We are so thankful for the chance we had to visit many of you in person before these bans went into effect and are sorry we were unable to visit others since we needed to adapt our schedule due to bad weather, car trouble and now rules limiting gatherings. For those we were unable to visit with in person, we would still love to set up an online visit and share with you about what God has been doing in Latin America and what He continues to do in spite of the limitations on inperson gatherings. We are keeping you all in prayer and thank you for your prayers and partnership in God's work throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift! 2 Corinthians 9:15

We thank all of you for partnering with us and making it possible for us to share the most important message with those in Latin America! We are thankful for each of you walking alongside us!

In Christ <><.

Arthur and Eva, Bethany, Zoe, Noah, Nathaniel and Mary Anna



To support the work of the Rickmato:

a tax-deductible gift

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod P.O. Box 66861 St. Louis, MO 63166-6861.

ALSO, you can send your gift to:

Mission Central at 40718 Highway E-16, Mapleton, Iowa 51034

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks "Support of the Rickman Family." Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at <a href="https://www.lcms.org/rickman">www.lcms.org/rickman</a>.

#### ZionLutheranSecretary@CFZionLutheran.com

From:

Carol Gale <cgandldg@yahoo.com>

Sent:

Monday, March 23, 2020 3:18 PM

To:

Church Secretary

Subject:

APRIL PARISH LIFE article

#### North Wisconsin District LWML news, from our Pres. Becky Haltaufderheid:

As I watched my church service from home via live stream, I saw empty pews.... It was eerie and will be the new norm for a few months. God was still present as I heard Pastor Jackson read the scripture lessons for today and preached on how we are to walk. Looking straight ahead at Jesus so we don't become distracted and lose our way. Praise Him as we keep our eyes focused on Him. "Jesus Be Our Vision".

The rallies have all been canceled and I worked on a procedure we can use to continue the business of LWML even though we are separated. I sent this to Yvonne Schilsky, our Parliamentarian to make sure this procedure is an accurate way to continue the business of voting for your zone officers and selecting your YWR(s) for the 2020 Convention. Please read this over carefully. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 920-255-0280.

I am proceeding as if our 2020 Convention will be going on as planned. I have contacted the Radisson and they have relayed to me that we can reschedule at no penalty. This is a blessing and I thanked Michelle for offering this. I along with the Executive Committee will be checking the status of this pandemic on May 1st to see where the state stands and if any assembly restrictions have been lifted. We will advise at that time.

Many of you have asked or advised, if the society that had planned this Spring Rally could be hosting the Fall Rally. That is a great idea and I would urge you to do so. They have all the planning done, they just need to put it into action in the fall... Perhaps your scheduled speaker will be available on the dates you select in the fall.

Thank-you for your service. I am so blessed to have each of you on the board with me during this time. I thank God He has placed you in your position on the board. Blessings as you move forward with the business at hand.

Serving Joyfully,

Becky

Becky Haltaufderheid NWD LWML President becky.haltaufderheid@gmail.com

God's peace be with you, Carol Gale



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

**YOU** are a blessing to so many. Let me share with you those that have been blessed by your Mite offerings:

- Concordia students at Fort Wayne
- Orphan Grain Train recipients
- teachers, pastors and DCE's receiving financial aid
- the homeless in Ashland
- the people of Czech Republic and Russia as Cindy, Pastor Charles and Connie Mission Central missionaries serve them
- the people at Victory Lutheran in Gwinn, MI
- the veterans who are strengthened by the military comfort dogs
- the parents of "Wonderfully Made" children
- the people in Cameroon as they wait to read the Bible in their native tongue

On behalf of all these recipients, I thank you for your mite offerings. Because of your generosity, we were able to fully fund all nine mission grants selected at the 2018 District Convention, for a total of \$109,500. Please rise and sing the Doxology with me. (Sing)

This past year, some of you may have participated in the Assembly of Leaders leadership training. Have you told others about what you learned? Are you still searching for ways to get other women in your congregation involved in this great mission? There are lots of resources to help you plan and facilitate Bible studies, retreats, or gatherings in your congregations. All materials can be downloaded FREE from the LWML website at www.lwml.org to use and share with others. Enjoy your searching experience!

<u>I attended the first President's Assembly</u> in St. Louis this past January. This was a change that resulted from the resolutions adopted at the National Convention in Mobile. Let me share a few details from this meeting:

- Donate your change has been discontinued, if you joined this round up program, please remove your credit card information from their site.
- Do you like podcasts? There will be a six week session on women of the Bible
- There will be a daily Bible study you can engage in online
- Eden Keefe is the new **Vice President of Gospel Outreach** until the 2021 LWML convention in Lexington, Kentucky, due to the resignation of Angelina Jauregui.
- The district presidents engaged in a panel discussion where much sharing took place and various subjects.

It was history in the making and a very productive meeting.

The Spring Retreat (will be held/ was held) on April 18th. Sara Ling-Radloff and her Heart to Heart committee planned a great Spring Retreat at Camp Luther under the theme, "Connecting Cultures and Generations. They will (have / had) cultural foods to try on Friday night. Heather Ruesch, Debby Suchyta, and Pastor Reinders (will be there to share / shared) how we all can connect different cultures and generations to Christ. Thank-you Sarah and H2H Committee for this inspiring retreat.

The 2020 District Convention at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center in Green Bay is fast approaching. Have you sent your registration in? If not, you can find the registration form in the Winter issue of the Mission Tidings. Have you selected your delegates and alternates? Each society is able to send two delegates and alternates to represent your society at this convention. The delegates will be voting to set a mission grant goal for the 2020 - 2022 biennium, selecting mission grants to fund and electing officers. Georgette Vandenberg, Corresponding Secretary sent out delegate information to every society. If you did not receive your information, please let me know. Registration and servant events begin at 1:00 PM Sunday. On Monday and Tuesday, you will be inspired as you hear how your mite offerings have helped Lutheran Indian Ministries, listen to various speakers and be fed by God's Word as Schawn Starfeldt leads us in Bible studies. You will learn about the Native American culture as Marin Denning from the Oneida Nation Arts Program teaches us about the art of Native American dances.

Today you will be selecting your YWR(s) that wish to attend and learn all about the LWML. You can send as many as you are financially able to fund. Do you have a Heart to Heart Sister in your society or zone? I would encourage you to send them to the convention to be with other Heart to Heart Sisters from the district. Perhaps your society or someone from your congregation would be willing to help pay their registration, meals and lodging expenses.

Join Betty Snyder on the East River trail in downtown Green Bay as you are bused from the Radisson to downtown Green Bay. Enjoy walking along the Fox River and taking in the sights around you. Registration forms can be found in the April edition of the Mission Tidings. Let's try to surpass last year's Mission Walk funds raised of over \$4,200.

Have you been to Orphan Grain Train, Mission Central or heard "The Browns" in concert? If you have or have not, you can register for the mission trip planned on August 11 - 14, 2020. You will have the opportunity to visit the Orphan Grain Train site and work alongside them for one day. You will be able to see what Mission Central is all about, meet Gary Theis. You need to bring another pair of socks along, because you're going to have your socks blown off there! "The Browns" are a family from La Mars, IA who perform all over the United States. They have been at our church in the past and are amazing! Registration forms are located in the Winter issue of the Mission Tidings and are due May 15th.

<u>Lastly, don't forget</u> to set aside September 10th - 12th for our Fall Retreat at Camp Luther. You will be blessed as you refresh, reflect, and renew your body and soul with the beautiful surroundings of Camp Luther and the Bible studies led by Pastor Richard Schultz (ROS) of Green Bay. Watch for more information in the next issue of the Mission Tidings. You won't want to miss eating in that new dining hall!

May your journey through the Lenten season be blessed as we reflect on our transgressions, our sinful nature which only deserves eternal punishment. But thanks be to God that He paid the ultimate price for our sins and rose from the grave, so that we too can enjoy our eternal home in heaven.

Serving the Lord gladly,

Becky Haltaufderheid

Dear friends in Christ,

Since our last newsletter in November, another quarter has flown by here at the Fort Wayne Seminary. My classes this winter included Hebrew, Homiletics (preaching), Reformation history, and the Gospels of Mark and Luke. Meanwhile, Rebecca audited a course on Ecclesiastes. One of her goals while at seminary is to audit one class each quarter, since it wouldn't be fair if I got to have all the fun.



Cross country skiing while at home in Minnesota.

The winter quarter had barely started when we paused for Christmas break. We drove back home to Minnesota to visit family, to celebrate my grandfather's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, and to attend a friend's wedding.

Back in Indiana, classes returned to full swing. During Symposia week, I attended several exegetical lectures by seminary professors under the theme of Christ's Sacrifice as Sacrificial Atonement.

The biggest new step of the quarter was beginning to learn to preach. In class we read and discussed Walther's Law and Gospel, and we wrote several practice sermons. Now, during Lent, I'll have the opportunity to preach my first real sermon at Zion, my field work congregation.

We've grown closer to other seminarians and their families, and we've come to appreciate the wholesome community we have here in Christ. We're especially blessed by the campus food and clothing banks, which supply most of our daily needs.

Annika has continued to bring us joy by her curiosity and language learning. She loves to make connections and ask questions. She'll persistently repeat, "What's that? What's going on? Where does that come from?" over and over until she gets a satisfactory response. She likes to sit on the potty as an excuse to read more books.

In addition to everything else, our family is also growing. In July, we're looking forward to welcoming a new baby boy, who we've affectionately nicknamed, "Barnacle."



Annika is excited to be a big sister.

With thanksgiving for all God's blessings, Peter, Rebecca, Annika, and Barnacle

Greetings from Fort hayre! Thank you very much for your prayers and support.

		April 2020			May 2020 ▶
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