



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

463 Highland Rd., Peterborough, Ontario, K9H 5J8 (705)745-0841

Website & Facebook www.christlutheranpeterborough.com

MAY NEWSLETTER 2020

Mission Statement: "As Christians living in God's grace we seek to demonstrate our faith in Christ by caring, listening, and responding to the needs of the whole person, serving each other and those beyond our Lutheran community"



Holy Communion During a Time of Covid-19

During this time of self-distancing and the closure of churches everywhere the issue of how we experience Holy Communion as a means to God's grace, has been a topic of great concern. As a Sacrament of our Lutheran tradition God's real presence can be found in, with and under the celebration. Is it possible to experience Holy Communion during this time?

Many of my colleagues have different beliefs about how we should be practicing Holy Communion during the pandemic. A new platform called Zoom allows many individuals to join in a discussion online. Many questions have been asked. Is it possible to experience communion virtually over this program? Can laity bless the bread and wine on their own and it still be considered Holy Communion? Is communing using a "virtual" method exclusive leaving those without access to technology unable to experience the blessing of communion? Does the meal become exclusive then? What does it mean to be the body of Christ? While in the church sanctuary all are invited to the table. It is the individuals right to choose not to commune. Are we willing to fast from Holy Communion during this time? How far am I as pastor willing to stretch my practices and theology?

Normal denominational guidelines from the ELCIC for communion for those who are ill, homebound, or in prison provide insight into how the church has thought about the issue of communion apart from those physically gathered for worship. They recommend either a pastor administering communion separately to those who are prevented from worshipping corporately, or lay persons bringing bread and wine that have been blessed and shared as part of congregational worship as

faithful ways to include those physically separated from congregational gathering for Word and sacrament. The question we face amid the pandemic is: what happens when congregations cannot physically gather, and pastors are not able to administer the sacrament in person? Currently Bishop Pryse has invited us to theologically reflect on the sacrament and do what we feel is best in our own context. That is if we wish to preside over a Holy Communion service virtually, we can do so. After much reflection and consideration of the questions above I have decided it is best to fast from communion, forego the sacrament which allows us to focus renewed energy on how the Word of God comes to us.

This line of thinking is certainly in harmony with Martin Luther's insistence that when Christians do not have access to the sacramental elements, faith is not in jeopardy. In his time Luther stressed the sufficiency of the Word for the nourishing of faith, just as ELCIC leaders are doing today.

Lutheran theology affirms that the Word is a gift from God that comes to the congregation through public reading of Scripture and proclamation of the gospel; that the liturgy and hymns are means for the community to proclaim and respond to God's Word. Lutheran theology also affirms that in response to our confession of sins, God works through words of absolution to bestow forgiveness (the part of worship Luther himself deemed most important). In writing about a renewed focus on the Word in this time of coronavirus, ELCIC leaders claim that **"the Word of God comes to us in all these ways and is really present."** Even though I have decided that we will fast from Holy Communion until we are able to gather again I want you to know that I miss Holy Communion as much as you. The common union that is shown before communion as you share the peace together and the love that envelops the sanctuary is something I love to watch. The act of presiding at the table is such a privilege also. And as your pastor one of the most intimate moments I feel that I have with you is when I can look you in the eye and present to you the body of Christ. I miss the sacredness of the entire experience and being close to you the body of Christ who gather in his name.

Please stay safe and healthy during the pandemic days. Keep in touch with each other. Be the Body of Christ together and remember Church is not bricks and mortar, but people like you and me.

Easter Blessings to you all!

Pastor Scott



How To Access Worship Online

During the pandemic Pastor Scott and Pastor Sue have been leading worship and broadcasting it on Facebook Live. To access it Sunday at 1030am simply go to the [Christ Lutheran Church Peterborough Facebook page](#) and it will start.

If you are unable to watch it live at 10:30, know that it remains on the Facebook page forever and can be accessed at any time.

OR

The service can be accessed Sunday afternoon by going to www.christlutheranpeterborough.com and click the "go to virtual service" button. It will take you directly to the Facebook video.

Printed Worship Services are emailed every Friday/Saturday.

Offering

Please remember to keep Christ Lutheran Church in your prayers and continue to contribute your regular offerings. Bills still need to be paid. You can mail your offering to Christ Lutheran Church Peterborough at 463 Highland Road, Peterborough ON K9H 5J8, or drop it off in the mailbox at the front door. Robin visits the church regularly to check the mailbox. Thank you to everyone for continuing to give during this time.

Weekly Zoom Coffee Hour Tuesdays 2:00pm

Join others from Christ Lutheran on Tuesdays at 2:00pm for some coffee and conversation.

On Monday's Pastor Scott sends out an invitation over email with a link to the Zoom meeting the next day. When you click on the link it allows you to enter the meeting.

Bible Studies on Thursdays

Morning Bible Study on Zoom – 10:00am – 11:30am

Evening Bible Study on Zoom – 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Every Thursday morning and evening we will be studying the lessons for the following Sunday's worship service. Pastor Scott will send out an invitation over the email prior to Thursday. Bible study materials will be attached to the email. Both sessions will be the same study. If you miss the morning you can join us in the evening.

There will also be phone numbers attached that you can call into the meeting. For more info please call or email Pastor Scott – (705)313-0333 or sschellenberger@hotmail.com

It is a great way to stay connected with your friends and learn at the same time. We have participants in the study from Christ Peterborough, Christ the King Whitby, and St. Luke’s Peterborough.



CONNECT. GROW. SERVE.Pastor Scott’s Continuing Education - Festival of Homiletics

The Festival of Homiletics is normally held somewhere every year in the United States (changes from year to year) and is a weeklong conference attended by between 1500 and 1800 preachers. This year due to circumstances it is going online and is free! I will therefore be attending. It runs from May 18-22. Together a wide variety of outstanding preachers and professors of homiletics to inspire a discourse about preaching, worship and culture. Individual preachers are invited to consider various styles and methodologies of preaching in the hopes that they will renew their faith and refresh their spirits through engaging worship, lectures and workshops. Throughout the week we aim to inspire preachers in their roles of proclaiming the gospel.



Theme of Festival of Preaching: Preaching a New Earth: Climate and Creation

Scripture’s first description of God is as creator. God brought the world into existence and all that makes up the world as we know it. But God realized that caring for creation could never be a sole endeavor. We are charged with that co-tending, and preachers are challenged with imagining and preaching about an ecological God. Our God is committed to, dependent on, and immersed in all the Earth provides, sustains, and yet, needs our help to bring the fullness of God’s creative work to bear. Our God needs our help to speak the truth about where and how God’s Earth groans for renewal, even resurrection, how our very climate changes are God’s cries for help. The 2020 Festival of Homiletics theme invites preachers to imagine their own role in God’s creative work, to be courageous in preaching about God’s creative activity, and to claim boldly our role in caring for God’s creation, when God’s very creation is at stake.



Church Council Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, April 14, 6:30 pm – AGENDA - ZOOM Meeting 6:30pm-8:30pm

Present: Connie, Sylvia, Charmaine, Elizabeth, Scott, Al, Marlys, Brenda, Robin, Milan *Regrets:* Janice *Opening Devotion* led by Pastor Scott.

The minutes of March 10, 2020 - Motion to approve: Robin,

Seconded: Sylvia, Passed.

CORRESPONDENCE: - Scott talked about synod information re financial help
Electronic Updates- Facebook continues to be updated regularly.

Reports

Pastors Report

Council Report April 2020 (from Pastor Scott)

- Notes of concern; Greater Toronto Eastern Event with David Maginley has been postponed
- 65th worship celebration on June 7th is questionable at this point
- Visited with everyone on the membership list. Except those who are busy
- Worship Interesting working with Sue. Learning experience. Serves purpose
- Phone visit with 95 percent of membership – as shown on the newest list shared by Robin to everyone

Goals – 1. To make sure all are well and have proper resources and support of family and friends.

2. To help with spiritual needs.

3. To be a listener to help cope with isolation and mental health of individuals.

Some phone calls are taking the same amount of time if not longer 45min to 1hr as regular visits.

Worship – Thank you to everyone for adapting and trying to navigate technology that perhaps you haven't used before. It has been a new adventure to try and livestream and I anticipate that this will be something we will continue once the restrictions are lifted. Surprisingly we have had upwards of 75 people worshipping with us or checking the service out later in the day or week. One person that I called mid-week was watching the service when I called. People from Germany, North Carolina, and other family and friends have been watching. Both Sue and my family have been watching and people like Bruce and Marg Litwiller in New Hamburg. It has been awesome. It has been nice to lead worship with Pastor Sue and to find a way to have some musical accompaniment. I appreciate Robin also delivering a printed copy of the service to people like Gord who do not have computers.

**65th Anniversary Worship Celebrations with Bishop Pryse –
Questionable**

The Greater Toronto Area East is presenting David Maginley

Postponed.

Eastern Synod Generous Practicum Event June 22-24 2020 – at this point no word of changes

I attended this event in 2016. It is intense and well worth it. It is offered at no cost to clergy of Eastern Synod. It as an opportunity to gather with a group of your colleagues in rostered ministry and explore the ways ordained leaders can create a culture of generous giving in a congregation. The speakers for this year’s event will include: **National Bishop Susan Johnson**; Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada **Lori Guenther Reesor**; Speaker, writer, consultant **Paul Nazareth**; Vice President, Canadian Association of Gift Planners **Rev. Hilla Lahtinen**, Director of Worship Ministries for the Synod, will be the worship leader.

Bishop Pryse and Pastoral Care for Clergy

The Bishop will be meeting with 10 of my colleagues for the second time this Thursday to check in and see how each of us are doing. I really appreciate that.

Spiritual Reading: Recently read **Everything Belongs by Richard Rohr**, a catholic spiritualist. Completing **Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territories by Tod Bolsinger** And leisurely **Pianos on the West Bank**.

How am I staying healthy? – walking the dogs lots, cleaning, and soon visiting the cottage. The phone calls are helping me as well as the people I am visiting.

Parish Support (Al, Milan)

Robin has been checking the building regularly as well as collecting the mail, offerings and banking.

Treasurers Report (Brenda)

- 1. Bank Balance at March 31st is \$87,749.15
- 2. Book Balance at March 31st is \$81,911.93

Brenda has provided the financials for Q1 to project a COVID-revised budget. In summary, based on budget for Current offerings:

Annual Budget Deficit	-8,529.53	-6,261.08	deficit first qtr is 70% of year	
		*Actuals prepared by B Bastian		
Reduce Current offering by \$3,710 per Q for 2 Q's	-7,400.00			
Less Spring Fundraiser (hold Yard sale later in year)	-1,800.00			
Revised Deficit	-17,729.53			

When we consider offerings from all sources, including envelopes, memorials, and other, our offering situation, in spite of the COVID situation, is on par with 2019. Our congregation continues to show its generosity and care for the community.

2020			2019		
Offerings (Current + all other)			Offerings (Current + all others)		
	Sunday	YTD		Sunday	YTD
05-Jan	2,590.00	2,590.00	06-Jan	1,729.50	1,729.50
12-Jan	790.00	3,380.00	13-Jan	2,547.00	4,276.50
19-Jan	725.00	4,105.00	20-Jan	1,055.00	5,331.50
26-Jan	1,945.00	6,050.00	27-Jan	810.00	6,141.50
02-Feb	3,920.00	9,970.00	03-Feb	2,920.00	9,061.50
09-Feb	2,380.00	12,350.00	10-Feb	1,832.00	10,893.50
16-Feb	2,940.00	15,290.00	17-Feb	1,565.00	12,458.50
23-Feb	1,945.00	17,235.00	24-Feb	1,630.00	14,088.50
01-Mar	2,565.00	19,800.00	03-Mar	1,925.00	16,013.50
08-Mar	1,995.00	21,795.00	10-Mar	1,249.00	17,262.50
15-Mar	1,590.00	23,385.00	17-Mar	1,545.00	18,807.50
22-Mar	0.00	23,385.00	24-Mar	1,772.00	20,579.50
29-Mar	3,380.00	26,765.00	31-Mar	1,435.00	22,014.50

The impact of COVID and continued self-distancing on our finances is difficult to predict. Brenda will review what COVID relief benefits our congregation may qualify for.

Some discussion followed: summer offerings are often low; there was a good deposit at the end of Easter weekend; many people are making their offering once in the month; how/when might we apply for the wage subsidy. Consensus to give things another month and re-visit the financial situation at next council meeting.

Outreach (Milan/Robin)

- activities on hold due to Covid-19
- there is a One Roof dinner planned for September -they are presently doing take-out meals and appreciate continued donations of money and take-out containers
- There is a shortage of food with the local food banks. Robin will e-mail the congregation about how we can still support One Roof and other food drives (possibly have donations come to the church and then deliver to Food Share or whoever needs it
- appears lock down may go on for quite a while
- at this point money may be better than items in order to avoid Covid-19 worries
- suggestion to do the food drive and see if we could match items or dollar amounts
- suggestion to consider the youth shelter as a recipient of donations as well
- we will try doing one thing at a time by the month

Messy Church (Sylvia)

- nothing planned at the moment
- may look into Google Party as a virtual option

Kids Club (Marlys)

- tried March Break and no children arrived on Day 1; the state of emergency was declared the next day

Health and Wellness (Johanna) - on hold due to Covid-19

Social Activities (Robin) - on hold due to Covid-19

Stewardship and Fun-raising (Sylvia)

- can try doing the 'Anniversary wine' fund-raiser virtually-details to follow

Mutual Ministries (Sylvia) - on hold due to Covid-19

Martin Luther House (Johanna, Al, Marlys)

- continue to receive inquiries and we are being cautious regarding viewings -tenants may want to sublet -there continue to be inquiries about the available room through the Places4Students website
- Places4Students website says it is a good time to be listing even with the Covid-19 cautions
- will accept rent electronically (via Coombs) during the next few months
- could do a video tour of the house as an additional way of advertising rooms (ask full-time resident, David Anderson, if he might do this for us)
- one student is living at the house the others have gone home until they have to return to Peterborough for school
- one student requesting exit from the rental agreement and we will ask him for the 60 days notice to terminate the lease, will keep communicating

Old Business

- Special Recognition Cards – Robin will find someone
- Lock on office door -Ralph will take care of it
- LED lights have not been done yet, project will resume when we start gathering in the church again

New Business

- COVID Actions – we continue to follow direction from Public Health and the Synod
- Employees – will continue to be paid – can re-visit on a monthly basis

Upcoming Events:

- Yard sale is postponed until we get more direction from Public Health -possibly in the fall

Next meeting: Tuesday May 12 at 6:30 by ZOOM again. Scott will set it up.



We hope that you are all continuing to stay healthy and well during these very challenging and unusual times. We want to really encourage you to continue to stay connected with other members of our Church Family in any safe way that you possibly can as this most definitely will prove very helpful for each of us.

Also remember good hand hygiene, social distancing and staying at home is still vital for everyone.

We so hope that we will be able to host a few informative workshops once again, as soon as we get the all clear.

Do stay healthy and be safe!



Outreach

We want to reach out to the front-line workers in health care and hospice. Outreach thought that we could sew face masks for the health workers. Since we are at home now for the month of May it would give us something to do. If you are interested in this project and can help, please contact Robin 705-749-7371, email robins_nest52@hotmail.com Thank you.

*Remember everyday is a new beginning,
take a deep breath, smile and start again.
Tough times never last, but tough people do.*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>MAY 2020</h1> 					1	2
3 Virtual Worship on facebook 10:30 am	4	5 Virtual Coffee Time 2 pm on facebook	6	7 Virtual Bible Study 10-11:30 am 7-8:30 pm	8	9
10 Virtual Worship on facebook 10:30 am	11	12 Virtual Coffee Time 2 pm on facebook	13	14 Virtual Bible Study 10-11:30 am 7-8:30 pm	15	16
17 Virtual Worship on facebook 10:30 am	18 Victoria Day Holiday	19 Virtual Coffee Time 2 pm on facebook	20	21 Virtual Bible Study 10-11:30 am 7-8:30 pm	22	23
24 Virtual Worship on facebook 10:30 am	21	22 Virtual Coffee Time 2 pm on facebook	23	24 Virtual Bible Study 10-11:30 am 7-8:30 pm	25	26
27 Virtual Worship on facebook 10:30 am	28	29 Virtual Coffee Time 2 pm on facebook	30	June 1 Virtual Bible Study 10-11:30 am 7-8:30 pm	June 2	June 3