From The Pastor's Desk

[28] And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28 (NIV)

What hasn't changed over the past month? All at once we are under a "stay at home" order from the governor, our streets are empty, and if you do run into someone at the super market they hurry by you as though you are patient zero in the flesh. It is astonishing how much can change in our lives as quickly as it did over these past weeks. That being said, I want to you all to know that we do not regard these changes as an attack on our liberty or to practice our faith. These restrictions have been put in place not to force us out of our churches, to refrain from worshiping our Lord, or to stifle the proclamation of the Gospel. These are necessary temporary restrictions to facilitate the health and safety of our community. Consequently, for our church life and congregation the following bullet points are the changes that have happened with regard to how our ministry is moving forward:

- We have suspended our weekly community free dinner until the local restaurants are permitted to open to the public.

- We have suspended our preschool until local state and federal early learning centers resume operation. However, our teachers and board members have been checking in with parents and families to offer them online support.

- We have committed to keep our teachers as employees and getting paid according to their salaries through April 14th or as financially feasible.

- Our secretary Sandra is working from home and continuing to serve members and assist me in capitalizing on opportunities via Facebook, YouTube, Wave Public Access, and our website.

- The Elders have been checking in with the members of their zones to assess if any of you have immediate needs for which we can offer assistance. If you have not heard from an Elder of the church, please let me know.

- I have continued confirmation for both my 1st year and 2nd year students via online zoom meetings.

- I have continued our 10am Sunday worship services via live-stream through our website and through the local public access channel throughout the week. Members can access the recordings of these services at any time after the live stream via the website.

- I have continued Bible Study twice a week (Tuesdays and Thursdays) via our website, YouTube, and the public access channel. This is an hour-long class on, "the Signs in the Book of John," where the participants and viewers are encouraged to write in comments and questions

Remembered with Thanksgiving:

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."

So many people do so much to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ into the lives of our faith family. In keeping with the practice of St. Paul as stated in the inset, every month the Elders of St. Matthew will recognize an individual, a group, a service, etc.

Remembered with Thanksgiving:

This month we recognize Steven Schlaffman for his continuous service and dedication to St. Matthew as our Church President and Usher. Thank you Steven!!!!!!!

What's Happening

04/07 Elder's Meeting @ 7:00pm - ***Canceled***

04/08 LWML Meeting @ 12:00pm- ***Canceled***

04/09 Maundy Thursday Service @ 7:00pm – Live Stream

04/10 Good Friday Service @ 7:00pm – Live Steam

04/12 Easter Sunrise Service @ 7:00am – Live Stream

04/14 Council Meeting @ 6:00pm - - ***Canceled***

Community Dinner Canceled until further notice

Youth Group Canceled until further notice

Bible Study Available on Website on Tues. & Thur.

Choir Practice Canceled until further notice

Praise Team Canceled until further notice

Confirmation– Holding class via Zoom

Foundations of Faith Canceled until further notice

****All dates and times are subject to change***

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Bill Hermann – 04/02
Philippa Gann – 04/04
Kylee Reid – 04/05
Wendy Larson – 04/06
Leah Lovejoy – 04/07
Jan Smith – 04/11
Sophie McDaniel – 04/20
Dianna Assumpcao – 04/26
Marvelle Hermann – 04/29

Baptism Anniversaries

Dolores Chatman – 04/01
Steven Schlaffman – 04/01
Anne Anderson – 04/05
Duane Vernon – 04/08
James Wilber – 04/13
Jan Smith – 04/25

As we live together as God's family we need to lift one another up in prayer as brothers and sisters of Christ.

Please place this month's prayer list near your Bible or devotion book as a reminder to pray for these family members:

Elder Craig Smith's Zone

Lowell Creighton
Bob Hicks
Sandra Hill (Johnathan & Eric)
Linda Jones
Becca Korby (Will, Megan, Ann, Emma & Geoffry)
Dano Marquette
Chris & Ashley McDaniel (Austin, Katie, Sophie, Zaira)
Doug & Amy Perry
Pete & Michele Pettit (Allison)
Ron Pierson
Jason & Tammy Reid (Ashlee, Kylee, Emilee, Lyndsie)

Please always pray for Pastor Lovejoy and his family. This is the best way to support them.

Jim & Maureen Roberts – 04/05
Jack & Cheryl Meyer – 04/10
Jim & Sandra Larson – 04/17
David & Marcy Hoglund – 04/19
Mark & Dorothy Johnson – 04/29

From The Desk of Our Church President

First, I want to express my concern for everyone. I hope you are all able to remain safe and secure during this difficult time.

I wish to extend my appreciation to Jim Larson for the outstanding job he did with expanding access to the narthex by enlarging the south east entrance. He did a magnificent job and it greatly improved access for those with disabilities or mobility issues.

Due to the social gathering restrictions, we will likely not have monthly council meetings or quarterly voters meetings until such time as restrictions are lifted.

I will make an effort to keep everyone informed through the Carillon or email. I can be reached at (360) 452-7955 or at schlaff@wavecable.com .

Please stay safe and embrace your faith during this difficult time.

Steven Schlaffman
Council President

FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK

Dear congregation of St Matthew,

These have been trying, worrying, fretful days. The world may seem out of control, with frightening news all around us, but we have a God who loves us and provides us with all we need. We may find that our faith is strengthened as we lean on Him for comfort and support, and perhaps His church will be expanded as others do the same. Rejoice! We don't know what the future may bring, but we do know Who creates and controls the future.

In these challenging times, it is especially important for the ministry of St Matthew to continue uninterrupted so that the Good News of God's love in Jesus can be proclaimed in this time and place. Therefore, as you are able from God's provision, you are encouraged to remember St Matthew with your regular tithes and offerings. If you are unable to attend worship services as usual, you can send your gifts in the mail or make a donation online through the St Matthew website (www.stmatthewportangeles.org). Please be assured that all your gifts, whether given in person, by mail, or online, will be properly recorded and gratefully used in support of the ministry at St Matthew.

With thanks,
Mary Heller
Treasurer

Human Care News

As you have heard the Wednesday Night Dinners have been suspended until restrictions are lifted regarding gatherings. We continue to look for ways to provide for those in our community.

The beginning of the Faith Build is still on track for May 1. If you picked up a Faith Build Bank or Monthly Giving Sheet please continue to use them until we have a chance to meet again at church. If you did not pick up a bank or giving sheet and would like one, please call me at (360) 460-1375 or email at schlaff@wavecable.com and I will mail one to you.

During this time of home confinement, please take time to call, mail or email friends, family and fellow church members with a message of love and support. I am sure it will bring joy to the recipients. Thanks

Cindy Schlaffman
Human Care Chair

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

APRIL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Virtue of the Month — Compassion Ephesians 4:34—"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you ."			1	2	3	4
5 "Psalm Sunday" 10:00am: Live Stream	6	7 Bible Study available on Website 4:00pm—Confirmation via ZOOM	8	9 Bible Study available on Website 4:00pm—Confirmation via ZOOM 7:00pm—Maundy Thursday Service—Live Stream	10 7:00pm—Good Friday Service—Live Stream	11
12 "Easter Sunday" 7:00am: Easter Sunrise Service—Live Stream 10:00am: Service—Live Stream	13	14 Bible Study available on Website 4:00pm—Confirmation via ZOOM	15	16 Bible Study available on Website 4:00pm—Confirmation via ZOOM	17	18
19 "2nd Sunday of Easter" 10:00am: Service– TBA 7:00pm: Service—TBA	20	21 Bible Study available on Website 4:00pm—Confirmation via ZOOM	22	23 Bible Study available on Website 4:00pm—Confirmation via ZOOM	24	25
26 "3rd Sunday of Easter" 10:00am: Service—TBA 7:00pm: Service—TBA	27	28 Bible Study available on Website 4:00pm—Confirmation via ZOOM	29	30 Bible Study available on Website 4:00pm—Confirmation via ZOOM		