

Words of Peace

Summer Sunset Edition

2020

I just wanna go back!
I just wanna go back!
just wanna go back!



If you've been watching our worship services online you've seen that we have included a song from our Peace Praise band in the worship service. It has given more people a chance to hear them and you should hear them. They're that good.

Recently they got together for a recording session weekend. They work hard to help make worship work for everyone.

Not that long ago we included their cover of a David Dunn song called, *I Wanna Go Back*.

It's a little offbeat for a worship song, but at the time we were getting ready to come back together in worship in person before the door was slammed shut again.

The song doesn't have anything to do with the pandemic, but it expresses that same longing we're all feeling for the foundation on which our faith is built. It goes like this.

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SEPTEMBER 2020

September

9/6 Communion 8:30a
9/8 Parent Zoom for Confirmation
9/13 Outdoor Service
9/15 Council Zoom
9/20 Communion
9/27 Outdoor Service

October

10/2 F&FF
10/4 Communion
10/4 Adult Study?
10/9 Confirmation tbd
10/11 Outdoor Service
10/18 Communion
10/25 Outdoor Service

November

11/1 Communion
11/6 F&FF
11/8 Outdoor Service
11/15 Communion
11/22 Outdoor service
11/25 Thanksgiving 7pm
11/29 Communion

cont'd from first page...

When I was a kid, I was sure
I could run across the ocean
And I was gonna be an astronaut

When it was You, and it was me
I had everything I needed
Faith could even move a mountain top

And then I grew up
And then I got older
Then my life got tough
And we grew apart

Oooh, I wanna go back
To "Jesus loves me this I know"
"For the Bible tells me
"For the Bible tells me so"
I wanna go back
To "This little light
"Gonna let it shine"
"Gonna let it shine"
I wanna go back

When I was a kid I didn't care
To keep up with the Joneses
I was just happy that they
lived next door

It was You, there was me
I had everything I needed
Your hands were big enough to hold the world

And then I grew up
And then I got older
Then my life got tough
And we grew apart

I wanna go back to
"Jesus..."

I really hope you and Jesus haven't grown apart. I hope you are not keeping your social (or spiritual) distance from the Lord! Our weekly online services are designed to help keep you connected and remind you that even in the midst of troubles, faith in Jesus is everything we need.

A Barna survey published July 8 took a look at worship attendance trends since church doors were directed to close because of the pandemic. The numbers were from late April-early May and things change, but this snapshot of online church attendance is revealing and frankly, disappointing. They found that one in three practicing Christians has stopped "attending" church during Covid-19.

It should be noted that earlier studies (before Covid) showed that Christians agree strongly that faith is a very important part of their lives and that they attended church at least once monthly.

Remember, everybody said church was important, but in these online worship days, the most recent poll found that just thirty-five percent of practicing Christians are still attending their pre-Covid church. Thirty-two percent are no longer attending church at all. Fourteen percent have switched to a new church during the pandemic, and eighteen percent are watching worship services from different churches each month.



Pre-Covid, we had been posting audio editions of our messages online, but online video has been a new option for Peace people. A good option I hope - and maybe a way to introduce ourselves and Jesus to some new people.

There was a surprising generational pattern that emerged in the latest survey as well.

When asked if they had attended (online) church within the past four weeks, exactly half of practicing Christian Millennials (born 1980-1994) said they had not. This is a little surprising, since this generation grew up in a digital world of mobile phones and social media. The group accounts for about 95 million people.

The percentages of Gen X-ers (born 1965-1979) and Boomers (born 1944-1964) who have stopped attending worship, 35% & 26% respectively, are lower than their younger counterparts, but still show a fall off.

Sadly, the survey couldn't pinpoint what exactly caused believers to stop attending church when church had to go online, but church goers across the nation are still seeking support from a church community.

-60 % long for prayer & emotional support.

-44 % are looking for a Bible-centered message of hope.

-35 % want to connect within the faith community.

What do those numbers say? People want to go back to Jesus. They miss the connection. So come back. Outdoors or online for now. Jesus never disconnected from them. Will they come back when the curve flattens again and the sanctuary doors are reopened? Masked and distanced? I hope so. We're ready if they are.

Thinking about this, the one thing missing in this lagging attendance picture is accountability. When people aren't likely to miss us, we're less likely to come. The truth maybe, but not an acceptable reason. In addition to a well-done online service (if you've been church hopping you know), we next went to a short service of Holy Communion two times a week. Now, in the last couple of weeks we have started coming together again, if even masked and outdoors.

We invite everyone to join us. Communion will be served on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month. If you're not quite ready to venture out yet, we still post a video of our outdoor service online.

We still have Bible study opportunities you can take advantage of. A Women's study is meeting on Wednesday AM. A Men's Study meets online Tuesday mornings at 8:30am. And we have a Lifelight study that meets online Wednesdays at 6pm. You can call the church office or check the online bulletin for contact information.

We are happy to help you get connected if the technology is a problem for you; you may request a DVD copy of the Sunday service to pick up in the church office or be mailed to you. Portals of Prayer devotional books are also available in the office, as well.

It seems to me that we have the bases covered like a Covid mask. The only part missing, if you're still missing out, is your part. Logging on, coming by, or calling.

Don't allow yourself to become a statistic, unless it's one of the good ones. You count. Your presence counts. And when you're not here, we miss you!

- Pastor Rob

Elders' Corner

“Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities...” - Romans 13:1

For the past 4 months, we have been subjected to government rules and regulations having to do with an enemy that we cannot see or sense. Unforeseeably, COVID-19 arrived on the scene and transformed the world in which we live. It has undeniably impacted citizens of nearly every nation around the globe. The COVID-19 virus does not discriminate between one victim and the next. This enemy much like our enemy, the devil, prowls around us like a roaring lion seeking whom it may devour.

Our government and health care leaders have labored to provide safety guidelines and directives for us to follow. As the pandemic wears on, it is important for us to cooperate with their advice regarding face coverings and social distancing, as these rules are there to protect everyone – including you and me. Any shortsightedness or disregard of this advice greatly increases our chances of acquiring a dreadful and deadly virus. Remember, it was God who instituted governing authorities, and it is in our own best interest to submit to and pray for them, as He directs us (1 Timothy 2:1-8).

Man by his inborn rebellious nature has an inherited disregard for rules and God's laws. Even as reborn Christians we are often tempted to put aside these rules that allow us to live together in a community of peace and safety. How simple life would be if everyone followed the Golden Rule and treated others as they would like to be treated. Mask-wearing practices and social distancing guidelines are there not just to protect you, but, remember, they are there also for the sake of your neighbor who may need such precautions more urgently than you.

There's a spiritual principle and lesson in all of this. Because God's laws were broken in the first place way back in the Garden, this fallen human race needed someone to protect and save us - not just from the devil or from death but from something even worse: the wrath of a holy God whom we've collectively offended by our transgression of His commands. It is a scary realization to understand that we, therefore, cannot justify or save ourselves but must depend wholly on someone else to save us. The Good News is that we have Someone greater than ourselves and greater than all our enemies who is in our corner! God, Himself, sends this Savior, His own dear Son, Jesus Christ, who saves us from our own undoing. Jesus rescues us from God's righteous wrath and the eternal consequences of our sins.

The temporal effects of sin are nevertheless still seen and felt in this fallen world. But we are not without hope. St. Paul points out that "...the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies." (Romans 8:22-23)

Jesus is our hope. He whose death made satisfaction for all our sins is the Resurrection and the Life! We presently already enjoy life in His Name, even as we await that glorified life in the new world to come - where there will be no disease, no devil and no dying. The hope that drives us to continue the good fight, now, in life's struggles is none other than Christ, Himself - the firstfruits of the resurrection. This Jesus promises to be with us and comfort us through thick and thin and to never leave or forsake us in our hour of need. He will be there at our last breath in this life and there to welcome us at the drawing of our first breath of that heavenly pristine air in the next life. And we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever (Psalm 23).

JOIN A BIBLE STUDY:

Women's Bible Study with a study on the Holy Spirit. Please contact:
Connie Morris (805)987-5116 to join or for more information

Men's Bible Study "Hard Sayings of Jesus" meets via Zoom Tuesday mornings at 8:30.
Call Dave Hutter (805)386-7007 to join or for more information.

LifeLight Bible Study "End Times" meets via Zoom Wednesday evenings at 5:45 p.m. A second class meets Thursday at 10am. Call Diana Wanke (805)482-7524 to join or for more info.

PORTALS OF PRAYER for July-September 2020 are in the church office and can be picked up during office hours, Monday-Thursday, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm.

Dear Luther's Attic Volunteers Past and Present,

Ordinarily about this time we would host a thank you luncheon for our wonderful volunteers, but this year we are unable to do so due to the Corona Virus. We do want to let you know how thankful we are for your service both past and present...



We have enough volunteers to open the store Wednesday through Saturday. We have enough revenue to pay our expenses and still give some money to the schools. With the help of our wonderful manager Donna, we have been able to keep open during this time.

We realize some of you have been unable to continue working due to the risk factor and health concerns. We hope you'll be able to rejoin us sometime in the future.

Sincerely,

The Luther's Attic Board

September

birthdays & anniversaries



Emma Sage	9/1
Debi Markley	9/5
Ken Nipstad	9/11
Paul Trahan	9/11
Lori Schultze	9/13
Kevin Ylizariturri	9/14
Phil Deck	9/15

Paige Krause	9/15
Vera Alamillo	9/16
Ray Linaweaver	9/16
Chelsea Schultze	9/16
Craig Frye	9/17
Amy Waddell	9/19
Robby Waddell	9/19
Gary Spencer	9/19
Sharon Krumdieck	9/22
Karen Rusch	9/23
Timothy Klittich	9/25

Lisa Wright	9/25
Pat Smithback	9/26
Ken Anderson	9/29

Happy Anniversary to...

Mark & Melissa Pettit	9/1
Scott & Cindy Klittich	9/5
Jon & Jennifer Adams	9/10
Bill & Tami Ullerick	9/14



Outdoor WORSHIP

Sundays @ 9:30am

Rise & Shine!

Join us on our patio for OUTDOOR WORSHIP!
Please bring your own chair (if not, we'll provide a fold-up chair). Recorded service will be posted online afterwards.

Pls Check Website or Call Office for Updates on Service Times Due To Weather Changes



SUPPORT THE BLOOD BANK

Donate your blood and make a difference

The **Fall Blood Drive** is scheduled for **Saturday, September 26, 2020**, from **10:00 AM to 2:00 PM** in the **Fellowship Hall**. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Blood Mobile bus cannot be used. Vitalant will be bringing their own donor chairs, and all the necessary equipment. The employees follow strict COVID-19 guidelines, and **it is perfectly safe to donate**. If you have donated in the past, Linda Young will be calling you to see if you are able to participate. If you have not donated in the past, please call her at 805-236-4820 to schedule your appointment. Please remember that the blood supply is low during this pandemic and your donation is needed more than ever.

Confirmation...

Classes start up again this fall for returning and new students. There will be a PARENT ZOOM MEETING **Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 7pm** to look at options together this year (in light of Covid considerations).

Check your email for an invite. This year we will be studying The Lord's Prayer and the Sacraments with Pastor Mike. We will use the same spiral-bound Small Catechism as last year. Looking forward to seeing you!




BYOC

Bring Your Own Coffee?

WHO'S READY FOR SUNDAY STUDY?

Pastor Mike would like to know of your interest in an October Bible study after Sunday services, and your preference for outdoors or indoors. Pls. let him or the Office know. Thnx!

Peace Health

September 2020

NATIONAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS MONTH

Do you recall that September **is** National Disaster Preparedness Month? Several years ago, the entire month was devoted to articles on personal Disaster Preparedness, with each member family receiving a new article each week in their church mailbox. Despite the havoc and changes in our lives brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is still extremely important for each person and every family to have an updated disaster plan. National Disaster Preparedness Month is the perfect time to dust off your plan, read through it, and assure it is still relevant to your family needs.

Things to remember when reviewing your personal disaster plan include:

1. Make sure your plan includes specifics to your family's needs. Always remember to include medications and personal health care items. In this COVID-19 pandemic time, include provisions to keep you safe, masks, hand sanitizer, and disinfectant wipes.
2. Every year check all perishable items in your evacuation kit and replace anything with an expiration date within the coming year. This not only includes all food items and water, but it also includes medications, first-aid items, and batteries.
3. Whatever plan you have developed; the most important thing is that you communicate the plan with every member of your family. Review your plan frequently and if you have children, physically practice the plan with them. Also, remember, that as your children grow older, their needs change, so your plan may also need to change.
4. Share an extra copy of your plan with at least one family member or friend living outside your immediate area.

Should you have the need for additional disaster preparedness information, there are many sites you can access through the computer. One site that offers much information is www.ready.gov, which is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Homeland Security. The site is frequently updated based on current needs, and it contains many resources to assist in developing your personal plan.

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod has a national disaster relief agency, the LCMS World Relief and Human Care, that many are aware of. However, if the disaster occurs in Southern California, the national response is funneled through the Inter-Lutheran Emergency Response Team, (I-LERT). I-LERT is a collaborative effort between the LCMS and the ELCA with the goals of offering support, education, resources, and training to Southern California congregations. During emergencies, I-LERT works with other agencies to provide assistance, working to ensure the best support while assuring no duplication of services occurs. One of I-LERT's core values is to show God's love and to demonstrate compassion by promoting hope, healing, and wholeness in preparing for and responding to disasters.

Volunteers are needed for I-LERT to assist in Ventura County. If you wish additional information, or are interested in assisting in this church mission, you can contact:

Rev. Rick Stark
Director of Disaster Response
Phone: 619-318-0533
Email: rick.stark@i-lert.org

or

Ron Herman, RN
Health Ministry Representative
Phone: 909-921-7059
Email: ron.herman@psd-lcms.org

I-LERT+