



Words of Peace

Midsummer 2021 edition

The Masks of God...



Well, it happened. We got back to worship services without masks! It seemed like forever, but it may not last that long. Nevertheless, we seized the opportunity to make the requisite jokes about not recognizing one another without our masks on, or about the need now to start shaving once again (men, too! Ha ha! - just a leftover corny “Dad joke” from Father’s Day).

One real life story that happened to me along the lines of masking was when I went to visit an old friend. It was during the “height” (or depth!) of the pandemic when everyone was still mindfully masking - even outdoors. We met outside of a restaurant with masks securely in place, yet my friend was still unmistakably recognizable despite the number of years since we last met. His hair, glasses and body type all looked the same. The surprise came when the food arrived at our table, and we finally removed our masks in order to dig into our lunch. When my friend removed his mask, to my astonishment a long black beard unfurled almost into his plate - a bundle of fur that had been packed neatly and discreetly inside his COVID mask completely undetected.

(continued on next page...)



*He who appoints the sun
to shine by day,
who decrees the moon & stars
to shine by night,
who stirs up the sea
so that its waves roar —
the Lord Almighty
is his name.*

- Jeremiah 31:35

JULY

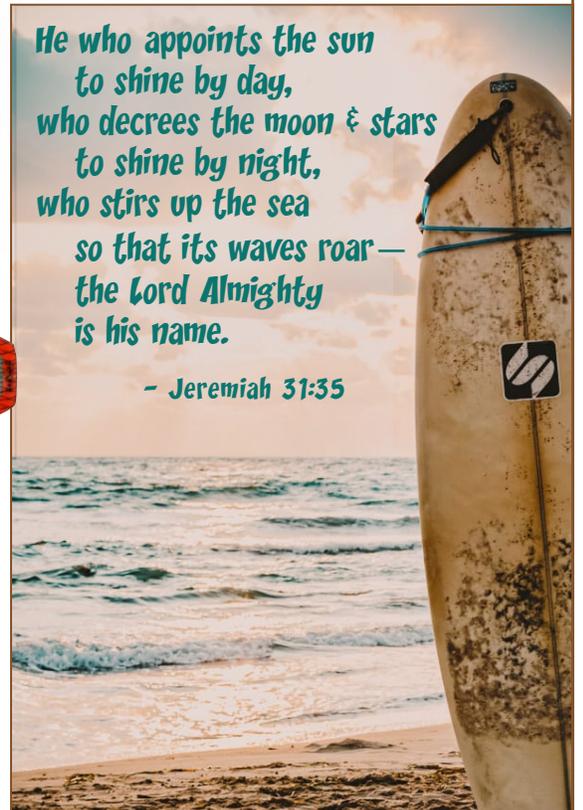
- 7/2 F&FF
- 7/4 10:30am Service
- 7/4 12pm Taco lunch
- 7/8 Jr Hi Zipline Trip
- 7/13 SuperTuesday!
- 7/15 Many Meals
- 7/20 Church Council

August

- 8/10 SuperTuesday
- 8/17 Church Council
- 8/18 Sr Hi study starts
- 8/19 Many Meals
- 8/22 Voters Meeting
- 8/29 10:30am Service
- 8/29 Rally Day BBQ

September

- 9/3 F&FF
- 9/6 Labor Day
- 9/12 Elders BBQ
- 9/14 SuperTuesday
- 9/19 Elders BBQ
- 9/21 Church Council
- 9/24 Confirmation



With masks off, I truly believe I wouldn't have recognized him even if I had stopped to ask him for the time! Funny how we all got so accustomed to seeing one another masked. Now, it seems we all need to be prepared to see and be seen either way - mask or no mask.

We probably are not accustomed to thinking about God being masked, either, although we are very familiar with the masks He wears. That almost sounds like a riddle. Let me unravel that...

The idea of God wearing a mask comes not from me but from Martin Luther. It starts with the biblical description of God as "He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see." (1Ti 6:15-16) In the OT, God tells Moses, "No one can see my face and live" (Ex 33:20), but then proceeds to hide Moses in a rock cleft for him, so that God, Himself, can shield Moses' eyes until He passes by. That way, Moses can at least see God's fading glory and survive the lethal trauma that otherwise would have been too much for his mortal eyes.

So, God in a sense has to hide or "mask" Himself in order to spare us sinful human beings in His dealings with us. We see examples of this in the OT, where God shows up in such things as a burning bush, a pillar of cloud/fire - even as "The Angel of the Lord" to stay Abraham's hand when he attempts to offer up Isaac.

In the NT the ultimate manifestation of God is when He wraps Himself in human flesh and puts on the face of Mary's baby boy (think of the line from the Christmas hymn: "Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the Incarnate Deity"). In Christ the "hidden" God is revealed to humanity in His assumed humanity.

We Christians, St Paul tells us, "are hidden with Christ in God" (Col 3:3). Luther waxes eloquent in his discussions on this matter of God's hiddenness. He points out that God, continues to hide and work in this world through His baptized, Spirit-filled sons and daughters:

All our work in the field, in the garden, in the city, in the home, in struggle, in government - to what does it all amount before God except child's play, by means of which God is pleased to give His gifts in the field, at home, and everywhere. These are the masks of our Lord God, behind which He wants to be hidden and to do all things. (Luther's Works, volume 14, commentary on Psalm 147)

Whatever our vocation might be - from farmer to fireman to physician - it is God at work in us and through us to care for our neighbor, Think about it. How does God continue, for example, to heal your ailing stomach or repair a broken limb? Through the vocation of doctor. And when it comes to providing your daily bread, God could make a grain of wheat sprout up without the contribution of a farmer to plant it and water it, but God chooses, instead, to use us - as well as the clouds in the sky and the rain and good soil to grow that wheat. And He uses a whole string of people working together - the reaping farmer, the factory worker, the delivery truck driver and the grocery clerk - to hand over the goods for you to, in turn, set bread before your family on the kitchen table.

It's a wonderful "chain of charity," starting from our gracious Heavenly Father and working its way down through redeemed sinners like you and me to reach those in need in our neighborhoods and homes. What's really amazing to think about is how God is even behind the mask, say, of an unbelieving lawyer or auto mechanic to ensure that you get justice done and back on the road again. Such unbelieving public servants do not even realize God is at work through them in the natural realm, nor do they give God credit for their God-given gifts in their respective vocations. But we, His redeemed children, understand and see by faith the hidden hand of God behind the various masks of His servants in our lives on this earth.

All this is part of that wonderful doctrine of *Vocation*, God's calling on our lives - a liberating doctrine that inspired middle class and other workers of all stations at the time of the Reformation and their progeny to follow.

So, as we remove one kind of mask - thankfully, after a break from COVID restrictions - let us never forget that we still wear yet another kind of mask as God's human instruments to serve our neighbor out of the steadfast love that He has shed abroad in our own hearts in Christ. We wear the mask of God to people who are in need around us. Wear it proudly, then (but not too proud - we're Lutherans :)



- Pastor Mike



As we celebrate another independence day, we need to remember that freedom comes with a price. Many men and women have died to protect our freedoms that we enjoy today. To the Founders of the United States of America and the completion of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, our independence meant much more than a piece of parchment. Samuel Adams, known as the “Father of the American Revolution” said,

“We have this day restored to Sovereign to Whom all men ought to be obedient. He reigns in Heaven and from the rising to the setting of the sun, let His Kingdom come.”

It was Adam’s view that in declaring their independence from Great Britain, the colonists were placing themselves under the only true “sovereign”, the King of Kings and the LORD of lords. Adams believed that as God “reigns in Heaven” it was His desire to further His Kingdom in the New World “from the rising to the setting of the sun.”

To John Adams, it was to be remembered as a “Day of Deliverance” from the control and oppression of tyrants, and it should be marked by acts of devotion to the God who delivers! To Sam Adams, and to his cousin John, the spiritual implications were significant. As God, the author of our liberty has “declared” us free from the power, dictates and cruel authority of the arch “tyrant”, the colonists were declaring themselves “free” to serve the King of Kings, and not an earthly tyrant. Their understanding of the event was theologically based, in a desire to serve the only true “sovereign”, Christ Himself.

Sound familiar? We also remember another Independence Day that was declared by our God when He sent His only son to die on a cross that we might be saved from our sins by His death and resurrection. Jesus overcame death so that we might have life in Him. “No one comes to the Father except through me”, declared Jesus.

As we celebrate another Independence Day for our freedoms in this great country, let also remember and celebrate what Jesus did for us all!

May God Continue to richly bless you all!

- your Elders



Something's *Phishy!*

Be Digitally Wise

We live in an electronic age where the bad guys are continually coming up with new ways to move money from your pocket to theirs. We have had instances here at Peace where emails went out to some of our members disguised to look like they had been sent from our church office or from staff. They have all generally been asking for a favor, and if you respond, they would ask you to buy gift cards and send them to them. These kinds of emails are known as phishing emails. You may have seen some from senders disguised to look like your bank or PayPal account or an organization you do business with.

If you look closely at the sender's information in the header it will begin with a familiar name or company but then a completely different account domain name. For example, if you ever receive anything from Peace or the Peace staff asking for money, check the sender address in the header of the email. Everything from church will end in @peacecamarillo.com. If it doesn't, delete it or, if your email supports the option of reporting it as phishing, that will help get that address blocked for others.

Be smart and be safe. You can always call the church office to check if it is legitimate.

Someday someone will hopefully get all this under control. Probably right after they fix all the car warranty robocalls.



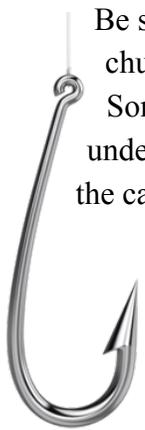
Social Concerns Ministry is collecting school supplies and backpacks to be given to **Lutheran Social Concerns** for their families in their transitional housing program.

*Please pick a tag off the display board after church and return your chosen supplies, with the tag, to the collection tote by **Sunday, August 1st**. Thank you for your continued generosity and care for others!



Teachers Needed

PEACE IS SEEKING A SUPERINTENDENT, as well as teachers, for our Sunday School program, which we would like to re-launch in September. We're hoping to hold a **Rally Day, on AUG 29, 2021**. If you have kids (or like kids - like Jesus did), please let a pastor or elder know about your willingness to help lead provided lessons from Concordia Publishing. It's been too long, now, for our kids to be without Sunday School. Thanks!



Childcare

Attendants Needed



IN-SERVICE CHILD CARE NEEDED:

As we are planning to re-open our Nursery in the Fellowship Hall, we are in need of a couple people to care for the children during the **9:30am service and the 11am service**. This is a paid position. We are pleased to already have Logan Krause lined up for those Sundays on which she is available. Please contact the church office if you are interested in learning more about this caregiving opportunity.



Altar Care

Committee is once again looking for volunteers for the remainder of the year. The signup sheet has been posted in the Narthex on the white board outside the Nursery/Cry Room. Beginning with August, please choose your favorite month to help with this important work. Sign up with a family member, a friend, or if you prefer, you can do it alone. If you have never assisted with this job and are interested in volunteering, we are happy to be a mentor to assist you. If you have forgotten what this entails or have any other questions about it, call Linda Young at 805.236.4820 or Carol Yung at 805.987.5952.

LUTHER'S ATTIC NEEDS VOLUNTEERS:

Since the pandemic, Luther's Attic has been open only W/Th/F/Sat. Wednesday was Peace's workday, but we've had only one regular volunteer. Volunteers from Simi have filled in to keep the store open. Since the revenue is divided by the number of work hours of each church's volunteers, most of the Wed. hours have gone to Simi. We need more Peace volunteers. To help, contact Nancy Fitch, 805-484-5900 or Carol Yung 805-987-5952. Tnx!



HERE'S THE LINE-UP FOR OUR YOUTH:

AUGUST 18 - Sr High Wednesday Bible Studies start back up with our friends at Christ the King. After dinner at 6pm and a game we are looking forward to starting a new series on "Master Criminals of the Bible."

SEPTEMBER 3 - FAITH & FUN FRIDAY launches a new academic year with a Bible theme.

SEPTEMBER 17 - Jr High Parent Meeting for Confirmation classes, which start up the following week.



SAVE THE DATE - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5: **2022 NYG INFORMATION MEETING** after church (pizza lunch provided) in the fellowship hall. We will update you on fundraisers, etc. Students entering or exiting Sr High eligible.

Celebrating
This
Summer...

Happy
B-Day!

Pat Massey	7/25
William Frye	7/28
Bonnie Gatling	7/29
Tom LaJeunesse	8/4
Brandon Zizumbo	8/4
Michael McCracken	8/8
Caroline Wentlandt	8/8
Dorothy Trahan	8/13
Norma Regalia	8/13
Esper Petersen III	8/14
Lisa Sage	8/17
Jean McGuire	8/18
Dave Schmidt	8/20
Jane Morici	8/20
Michael Ullerick	8/22
Sarah Martin	8/24
Kayla Tyler	8/25
Tyler Roehr	8/25
Karen Taylor	8/26
Marshall Denninger III	8/26
Blake Denninger	8/26
Anthony Stepp	8/27
Gary Taylor	8/28
Lisa Denninger	8/29
Marisa Stepp	8/29



AND GO...

Kevin & Sharon Krumdieck	7/26
Bob & Carla Lacy	8/21
Peter & Veronica Lee	8/23
Bob & Irene Hutchison	8/26

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



Summer Servers



Date	Elder	Ushers	Altar	Readers	Greeters	Acolytes
July 25 Praise Service Communion	Blaine Wanke Al Bosman	Blaine Wanke Keith Hedrick Todd Harter +++++ Mike Mc Cracken	Linda Young	Todd Harter Steve Herman Linda Elbert	+++++ Luci Pommers	Logan Krause +++++ Connor Stevenson
August 1 Communion	Dave Schmidt +++++ + Bob Hutchison	Craig Frye* Karen Taylor Gary Taylor Bill Young +++++ Rick Poore* Dave Miller Tom Taylor	Linda Young	Bill Young +++++ Peggy Frye	Karen Taylor +++++ Donna Pickler	Daniel Stevenson +++++ Rebecca Nomi
Aug 8	Dave Schmidt +++++ + Bob Hutchison	Bob Lacy* Jim DeVries +++++ Dave Schmidt* Roy Poehler	Linda Young	Linda Young +++++ Dave Schmidt	Karen Taylor +++++ Luci Pommers	Paige Krause +++++ Michelle Ullerick
Aug 15 Communion	Dave Schmidt +++++ + Bob Hutchison	Ken Anderson* Glenn Benitz Scott Ehlers +++++ Scott Klittich* Steve Rusch Mike Elbert	Linda Young	David Hudnell +++++ Al Bosman	+++++	Anna Petit +++++ Sierra Denninger
Aug 22	Dave Schmidt +++++ + Bob Hutchison	Blaine Wanke Keith Hedrick Todd Harter +++++ Mike McCracken Tom La Jeunesse	Linda Young	Roy Poehler +++++ Lori Schultze	+++++	Logan Krause +++++ Marisa Denninger
Aug 29	Dave Schmidt +++++ + Bob Hutchison	Craig Frye* Karen Taylor Gary Taylor Bill Young +++++ Rick Poore* Tom Taylor	Linda Young	Bob Lacy +++++ Bob Hutchison	+++++	Judy Nomi +++++ Connor Stevenson

9:30 Service

7-25 Communion
8-1
8-8 Communion
8-15
8-22 Communion
8-29

Elder

Dave Hutter & Bob Weaver
Bob Weaver/Tom Waddell
Bob Weaver/Tom Waddell
Bob Weaver/Tom Waddell
Bob Weaver/Tom Waddell
Dave Hutter/Greg Olewiler

Reader

Steve Herman
Susan Weaver
Stacy Hunter
Tom Waddell
Brian Nomi
Peter Lee



Midsummer 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>July</i>						
25 Traditional Service 8 & 11am 9:30 AM Praise Service 10:42 AM Adult Bible Class 1:30 PM New Life (FH)	26	27 8:30 AM Men's Bible Study	28 10:00 AM Luther's Attic Volunteers	29 9:30 AM Thursday Bible Study 10AM LifeLight Bible Zoom Study	30	31 10AM Praise Band Practice
<i>August</i>						
1 Traditional Service 8 & 11am 9:30 AM Praise Service 10:42 AM Adult Bible Class 1:30 PM New Life (FH)	2	3 8:30 AM Men's Bible Study	4 10:00 AM Luther's Attic Volunteers	5 9:30 AM Thursday Bible Study 10AM LifeLight Bible Zoom Study	6	7 10AM Praise Band Practice
8 Traditional Service 8 & 11am 9:30 AM Praise Service 10:42 AM Adult Bible Class 1:30 PM New Life (FH)	9	10 8:30 AM Men's Bible Study 7PM Super Tuesday	11 10:00 AM Luther's Attic Volunteers	12 9:30 AM Thursday Bible Study 10AM LifeLight Bible Zoom Study	13	14 10AM Praise Band Practice
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