



St. James Lutheran Church, ELCA

PO Box 4596, 109 York Street, Gettysburg, PA 17325-4596

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Website: www.stjamesgettysburg.org

“We respond to God’s abundant grace by being hearers, proclaimers and doers of the Word.”

Volume 65, No. 04

THE MESSENGER

April 2020

MUSINGS from Pastor Mike

[to muse (*myooz*), v. to think, gaze, or say wonderingly]

“I have come that you may have life and have it abundantly!” [Jn. 10:10]

Love has not been cancelled! Compassion has not been quarantined!

I do not want to minimize the fear and suffering I know we and others close to us are experiencing at this time, but I also do wish to lift up the amazing generosity of time, gifts and human spirit that I have recognized these past few weeks.

I am well aware of the nurses, doctors and healthcare personnel who are continuing to work in areas of uncertainty to care for those who are sick. I am aware of truck drivers who continue to deliver those items most necessary for our surviving. I am aware of those who are stocking shelves at grocery stores, often late at night or early morning before shoppers arrive. And so many others who are involved in providing daily necessities for each one of us.

Here at St. James there are amazing things taking place! These past few weeks we have been given a “crash course” in how to be a nurturing presence to each other in this time of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Amazing virtual experiences are happening daily! **Pastor Andrew** and **Katy Clowney** have taken the lead in organizing Facebook Live feeds. **Kristin Slaybaugh** has done Youth Group Zoom. **Tim Braband** has worked diligently putting together amazing worship services we can now share on Sunday mornings. Several choir members have joined in the singing!

The *Movers and Shapers* SS Class as well as the *Exploring Faith* SS Class have zoomed their classes in order to stay connected. Did you catch **Tom Bender** and his wife, **Mary**, doing a “Kids Chapel” with the Early Learning Center children? How about the Mac & Cheese, Gypsy Soup and Brownies on Wednesday evenings, the heartfelt messages given by our members, the *#lovethyneighborchallenge*, and *Virtual Spirit Week*?

Have you seen **Suzan Seibel-Willard** giving daily teachings for the Early Learning Center? *Morning Musings* for those wishing to “center” their days in the early hours. **Debby Nimtz**, **Lisa Poole**, and **Karen Lentz**, from the office and behind the scenes, keeping open our outreach to the community through our vouchers and finances—all part of the amazing teamwork!

We have received so many offers from members and friends asking, “*How can we help?*” If we don’t have direct answers immediately, please know how much we appreciate you. We are keeping a list and will be in touch, when needed!

From my musings point of view, in the midst of the emptiness and absurdity we all are feeling in different ways; never lose sight of the abundance of life right before us, around us and within us! **Thanks be to God for each one of you!**

HOLY WEEK

APRIL 4/5 – PALM SUNDAY

We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work. You will want to take advantage of the many opportunities to worship this Holy Week. Readings: Matthew 21:1-11, Philippians 2:5-11.

Recording will be posted on the St. James website and emailed.

*Eco-Palm branches are used in partnership with Lutheran World Relief. Through this simple act, we help palm harvesters, their families, communities and the environment by ensuring a fair price, supporting sustainable harvesting practices and empowering palm harvesting communities who receive a premium for each palm we wave. To learn more about Eco-Palms visit www.lwr.org/palms. Palm branches are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Guy E. and Sarah A. Raffensperger** by their children and spouses. **You may pick up palm branches in the alley entrance at the rear of the church from 10 am to 3 pm,** displaying them during your Holy Week devotions. Return branches next year on Transfiguration Sunday, February 14, 2021 when they will be burned for the Ash Wednesday liturgies.*

APRIL 6 & 7 – MONDAY & TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

Personal meditation and Stations of the Cross that we can all do with loved ones at home.
Document will be posted on the St. James website and emailed.

APRIL 8 – WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

"Church is hard, however...." reflection by Ernie Kranias. **Recording will be posted on the St. James website and emailed.**

APRIL 9 – MAUNDY THURSDAY

*This evening our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. We remember Christ's last meal with his disciples, but the central focus is his commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal. We are called to give and receive love in humble service to one another. Readings: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-17, 31b-35. **Recording will be posted on the St. James website and emailed.***

APRIL 10 – GOOD FRIDAY

Recording will be posted on the St. James website and emailed of the Gettysburg Ministerium Good Friday Community Service.

APRIL 11 & 12 - RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD - EASTER

This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! We sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words, and proclaim God's faithfulness, power, and love. With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful. We depart with joy to proclaim the good news of God's endless love. Readings: Acts 10:34-43, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, Colossians 3:1-4, Matthew 28:1-10. **Recording will be posted on the St. James website and emailed.**

The Paschal Candle, first lit at Easter, shows the presence of the risen Christ among his people. It is also lit at baptisms and funerals throughout the year as a sign of dying and rising with Christ, of our death and his life. The Paschal Candle is given in loving memory of **Treva Weikert** by the Redding Family.

APRIL 18/19 - SECOND OF EASTER

In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Readings: Acts 2:14a, 22-32, Psalm 16, 1 Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31. **Recording will be posted on the St. James website and emailed.**

APRIL 25/26 - THIRD OF EASTER

We celebrate Earth Day rejoicing and connecting with nature. Readings: Colossians 1:15-20, Revelation 21:21-22:5, John 12:23-36. **Recording will be posted on the St. James website and emailed.**

Parish Records

FIRST COMMUNION

March 8, 2020 Lila Johnson

DEATHS

March 23, 2020 Jeanne S. Henderson

March 27, 2020 Philimine S. Garlach

MARRIAGE

March 17, 2020 Robert J. & Hazel M. Fernandez

50+ WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

April 2, 1960	Waldo T. & Patricia V. Hartman	60 years
April 3, 1965	Carl G. & Nancy J. Yingling	55 years
April 15, 1967	Barry F. & Sharon L. Keckler	53 years
April 15, 1967	Louis J., Sr. & Priscilla L. Shuba	53 years
April 29, 1967	Wally R.W., Jr. & E. Gail Crum	53 years

**PLEASE MAIL
OFFERINGS to:
PO Box 4596,
Gettysburg, PA
17325.**

Spring Out With Creation Care

As the days lengthen and warm, our juices begin to stir as we thumb through the latest flower/veggie seed catalogs. We hear the songs of returning birds, and suddenly the walls of homes and schools feel very confining and our greatest desire becomes to burst OUT the door into the beauty and joy of God's creation! What to do first? Let's consider revisiting old favorites while at the same time seeking the new and yet to be explored! If you have children, are one yourself, or just a child at heart, here are a few possibilities to consider:

1. Ride a bike around the neighborhood, the battlefield, a nearby rails-to trails.
(Check out the website www.traillink.com)
2. Walk the battlefield and check out hikes at other nearby state and national parks.
3. Visit a nature preserve or wildlife refuge such as *Kings Gap*, *Strawberry Hill*, or *Hawk Mountain*.
4. Go fishin' or just take a stream walk.
5. Help plant a tree or bush.
6. Have a zoo adventure.
7. Get inspired at a nursery or garden center to plant a garden plot or container.
8. Plan a picnic.
9. Build/create a bird feeder or house and start observing the feathered world up close and personal.
10. "Spring clean" along a local roadside.

Get the message all you St. James winter couch potatoes? Just open your doors and GO! And when you do, praise God for making us the caretakers of this diverse and fascinating Planet Earth.

April 19-25 National Volunteer Appreciation Week

"Well done, good and faithful servant."

I am always thankful for the volunteers at St. James and I want to take a special moment to express my appreciation during National Volunteer Appreciation Week. Thank you so much for your labor of love. I think of all the volunteers that we have here at St. James Lutheran Church and realize how blessed we are as a church and as a community! Your willingness to use your gifts and abilities has strengthened the mission and ministry of this church. You are an example of servant-leadership and giving.

I know that volunteering adds extra hours to your already long week of work, and time away from family and friends. Without all of **YOU**, we would not be able to share the love of Christ in our church and in our community. From greeters to choir, nursery volunteers to Sunday School teachers and leaders, to sacristy attendants and all the behind the scenes job: counting offering, preparing the bulletins and changing paraments; to working with our local and global organizations such as: Adams Rescue Mission, Gettysburg C.A.R.E.S., Habitat for Humanity, Lutheran World Relief and many more. God's abundant grace is felt and shown by all of **YOU**!

Volunteering does not have to be a huge time commitment, and some work can be done at home, like baking bread for communion or cooking for an event, or even knitting or crocheting and donating your projects to the Prayer Shawl Ministry. There are also many opportunities to get involved with committees to voice your ideas and opinions.

I believe that **God** is doing something **BIG** here at St. James and I want to be in on it, **and I want YOU to come with ME!** Please pray and consider how you can be more involved in sharing God's love.

You can always contact me at lpoole@stjamesgettysburg.org or 717-334-2012 ext. 203.

God's Blessings, *Lisa Poole, Spiritual Gifts Coordinator*

A special thank you to Tara Baugher for planting roses along the church on Stratton Street in loving honor of all St. James Volunteers!

SUMMARY OF MARCH 18, 2020 COUNCIL MEETING

The meeting was held by telephone conference due to the Coronavirus quarantine.

Minutes:

Minutes from the February 12 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Karen Lentz was not present, but she had submitted her report via email. The report showed that through January and February 2020 regular giving was \$110,829 compared to \$105,400 in January and February 2019. However, Council expressed concern about finances with the Coronavirus causing cancellation of all church activities and services going forward. Following a motion, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

Coronavirus Report:

Pr. Allwein reported the Early Learning Center closed Monday, March 16. Concern was expressed for the teachers who are now not working and how they will manage if they have no income. They do not qualify for unemployment compensation since the Center does not pay for unemployment compensation insurance. The monthly cost for Early Learning Center personnel is around \$52,000 if they are to be compensated.

Bishop Dunlop has been issuing weekly messages and recently he asked pastors to keep churches closed through March. This will be updated weekly.

Visits by pastors are not currently permitted in nursing facilities and hospitals. Hospital chaplains are currently covering faith based needs. Peters and Monahan Funeral Homes have placed a hold on funerals although no St. James members have recently died.

Construction Report:

Kyle Smith reported that the roof is nearing completion. No egregious conditions were present in the roof decking. Repointing and first phase windows are complete. The kitchen remodel will begin about April 18.

Shaffer Design Associates, P.C. submitted a proposal for the following Capital Campaign projects:

- Security improvements to existing stairwell and elevator - \$4,000
 - Phase 2 window evaluation and design - \$3,600
 - Gathering area design, construction consulting, etc. - \$6,000
 - Construction Phase services and observation - \$0
- Gary will bill for hours provided by his staff, but will bill \$0 for his own hours.

Property Committee moved that this proposal be accepted. Council approved.

Nominating Committee:

The Nominating Committee reported that two people have agreed to run for Council this spring for three-year terms. They are **Carol Cook and Alan Haynes**. Several more members are considering running for the two remaining Council seats. **Emili Scavitto** has agreed to serve as the Youth Representative again.

Sharing:

Council members shared thoughts about the current Coronavirus situation. Several expressed appreciation for the technology we have to bring sermons and services to members on the St. James website and YouTube. Concern was expressed about church and personal finances since some members have now lost jobs and their source of income. Pr. Allwein stated that in meetings with Lutheran pastors on Tuesday and the Gettysburg Ministerium on Wednesday, there were many expressions of hope and blessings for all. There was expressed concern that this may go on for some time, but that we also might be able to use this time to look for opportunities and to stay positive.

THANK YOU to who gave donations for World Hunger!

Given in loving honor of:

Nadine Baugher by Phil & Tara Baugher

The Choirs and the Staff at St. James by Louis & Priscilla Shuba

Our Children & Grandchildren by Lois & Mike Allwein

Our Family by Jack & Sally Crist

Given in loving memory of:

Don & Esther Aurand by Daryl & Lyne Aurand

Jay & Lou Auxt by Tara & Phil Baugher

John Baugher by Phil & Tara Baugher

G. Richard & Glenna Boyer by Carole B. Smith, Anna Kessel, Peggy Green, Kenneth Boyer & families

Leroy & Elizabeth Crist by Jean & Conner Blaine

Ruth & Guy Crist by Brad, Beth & Braden Becker & Katie

Ruth & Guy Crist by Jean & Conner Blaine

Ruth & Guy Crist by Brianne, Bryan & Sophie Lookingbill

Ned Crouse by Joyce Crouse & Family

Sue Flesner by David Flesner

Chester & Ruth Frederick by Priscilla & Louis Shuba

Crosby & Rhoda Hartzell by Jean & Conner Blaine

David & Andrena Isenberger by Samuel & Linda Isenberger

Loved Ones by Barbara & David Hedrick

Martha Magyar by Julie Aha

Bill Millar by Lyne & Daryl Aurand

My Many Loved Ones by Dee Wells

Salud Nieting by Bill & Judy Leslie

Madeline Orndorff by Treva Shank

Our Immigrants by Anonymous

Our Parents by Lois & Mike Allwein

Our Parents by Judy & Ken Boyer

Our Parents by Glenn & Nancy (Klinefelter) Heller

Harold Platzer by Kathy Platzer

Hurshel Shank Sr. by Treva Shank

George & Caroline Shuba by Louis & Priscilla Shuba

Kermit & Catherine Spence by Linda & Samuel Isenberger

STAY CONNECTED TO ST. JAMES--
even if you don't do email, you can simply
visit stjamesgettysburg.com to see
everything that St. James is up to—
including watching our worship services.
Ask a family member or friend to help you
to get to our homepage—it's all there!

Leaders in Adams County provide support during this public health crisis!

Last week, our partners at the Adams County Community Foundation hosted a conference call on March 24, 2020, inviting leaders from key community organizations to share updates about their efforts to provide support during this time and to answer questions from community members who were also on the call. Here's what you might've missed:

ADAMS COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Is encouraging you to...**Stand by your favorites:** Give to the organizations of all sorts that you already support. They can't survive without your help. Those providing food and other basic needs will see demand for services increase. **Think strategically:** Consider renewing your supporting memberships to organizations that work to bring resources to our community, like Adams Economic Alliance, Destination Gettysburg, and Main Street Gettysburg. **Open your heart:** Add to your list or increase your giving to organizations providing direct support--housing, food, care of all kinds--to people most in need.

ADAMS ECONOMIC ALLIANCE

The Alliance is now processing applications for the COVID19 Working Capital Access Loan Program administered by the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority (PIDA). Adams Economic Alliance is working diligently to help businesses recover from declared disaster. Visit the Alliance website for more information.

THE CHAMBER OF GETTYSBURG AND ADAMS COUNTY

is committed to gaining a better understanding of what information and resources are available in our region to share with folks in the County. Updates on changes in local economy and organizations can be found on the Chamber's Facebook page and website. Subscribe to the Chamber's mailing list to stay up to date on these developments.

THE COUNTY OF ADAMS/ADAMS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The main areas of focus for county relief and safety include ensuring that county emergency and other required services are available, county representatives acting as conduits to educate state and federal officials and providing updates from these leaders to our residents, working with community agencies to coordinate necessary services such as food, shelter, and other supplies to support during this time. The best way residents can help at this time is to stay safe by staying indoors and to continue practicing appropriate social distancing measures.

GETTYSBURG TIMES

Gettysburg Times staff is working to connect the community by sharing vital information regarding the virus but also to share stories that are a happy distraction from current events. Reach out to Gettysburg Times to share stories to aid in boosting morale in the community! The paper is now completely online, physical copies of the paper will be delivered only three days per week.

ADAMS COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

Is working to continue the housing process by mail, the recertification process is now done by mail and email, phone interviews are being conducted, and the Housing Authority's lobby is open for mail pick-up and delivery. Interested program participants can drop off applications, here and have access to the lobby phone to contact caseworkers, property managers and to pay rent. Project new start is still accepting applications at this time. Physical copies of this application can be found in the lobby or on the Housing Authority's website. Routine inspections are postponed and emergency eviction processes are not initiated at this time. For those in need of medication or food, staff is available to clients by phone.

SOUTH CENTRAL COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS (SCCAP)

Is working to flatten the curve and community spread by educating the community with accessible resources. SCCAP is active in partnering and working with other organizations in the community. SCCAP Shelter was gifted a tablet for virtual Urgent Care appointments with consumers if needed. SCCAP Gettysburg Food Pantry is providing prebagged groceries for clients at this time to decrease the risk of contact while providing essential service to the community. SCCAP is working with hotels to identify local housing options. The Adams County Assistance Office is open but is not seeing clients at this time. To speak with a representative, contact the Office by phone or visit the website for further instruction. The Adams County Office of Aging is still providing Meals on Wheels to the area.

UNITED WAY OF ADAMS COUNTY

Is encouraging the use of 211 during this challenging time for emotional support and increased access to important resources. 211 is an easy to remember telephone number meant for callers to gain referrals and information about health, human, and social service organizations in the area. United Way urges Adams residents to continue checking in on neighbors, coworkers, family and friends to stay socially connected. Tax filing assistance is now available online for those who need!

WELLSPAN

Please visit WellSpan's website for the most accurate and up to date information about how to stay safe and healthy during this public health crisis. Some important notes: Screening for the virus is in place and open-air screenings are located in the area near the Gettysburg Hospital's Emergency Room, at WellSpan Family Fairfield, and WellSpan Adams Health Center. **Screening is only available for those who have been instructed by a physician to get screened.** All volunteer activities at the Hospital have been suspended and there are no visitors allowed at this time. Outpatient rehabilitation is done virtually. The hospital is doing ok on supplies at this time. IF you donate, do not drop donations at the Hospital as there is a group trying to coordinate donation collection. Blood drives are still happening at this time as there is still a great need. Lastly, virtual doctor's visits are available and social distancing is one of the best things we can do right now to stop the spread.

Thank you to all who provided support in any way you can during this challenging time. What an inspiring way to remind folks that there is strength in working together. We are #AdamsTogether

ST. JAMES

LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

PO BOX 4596, GETTYSBURG, PA 17325-4596

PLACE
POSTAGE
HERE

The Messenger will next be processed Wednesday, April 22. All articles must be e-mailed to dnimtz@stjamesgettysburg.org **BEFORE Wednesday, April 15!**

LABEL

Calling St. James at (717) 334-2012

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 9:00 am – 3:30 pm
Wednesday, 9:00 am – 5:30 pm

*When calling our church office, you will reach the automated phone system. **Please leave a message** on staff members' voice-mails by immediately pressing their extension number listed below.*

- | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|---|
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