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July Newsletter Deadline: Saturday, June 20, 2020

THE MESSENGER



June 21, 2020



The Messenger

St. Peter Lutheran Church – June 2020

A Little Bit of This and That from the Desk of Vicar Carol

Greetings,

It has been several months since I have written anything to you and I feel a little rusty. So much has happened in these few short months, but then again so much has not happened. Things that we once took for granted are no longer a part of our everyday lives. Our world and our ways of interacting have been dramatically impacted by COVID-19. We will be forever different because of it. We long for the “good old days” when we could go to a restaurant with our friends and family and not worry about social distancing. We long to worship in our sanctuary, but that too has been deemed unsafe at this time. We have had to adjust to so many changes. For instance, we had seniors in high school who participated in a first ever virtual graduation ceremony. Sporting events and events of all kinds have come to a roaring halt. People long for a time that was once our reality, but it seems that that way of being and doing has had to take a backseat to protect us from this killer virus that has so far taken the lives of over 90,000 U.S. citizens.

But we are resilient. We have learned to be flexible and some are even cherishing the time that has been given to them to focus more closely on tuning in to family and loved ones. Our family has had many ZOOM meetings to connect with family all over the country and the conversations have been rich. Church leaders have had to adjust to learning new technologies to reach their congregations and many are finding that they are reaching people way beyond their regular church attendees. With change, we find new ways to connect with each other. As humans, we are made for living in community and connection with each other.

We are also meant to live in connection with our God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God has not changed or left us in this pandemic God is here, present, calling for us to turn to him to set aside time to connect and be in relationship with him. So, my question is...how are you doing with this? Have you been able to carve out space to sit in quiet and pray and listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit at work in you? What has it been like for you?

I have been focusing on some teachings through Healing Care Ministries out of Ashland, OH. I recently signed up for a seminar on studying about how my true self is found when I begin to understand what it means to have my identity grounded in Christ. We are not loved more or less by what we do or by how much money we make. We are loved and reconciled to God because we believe that Jesus Christ, the only son of God came to earth as a baby, lived among us, was crucified and died, and resurrected. In God’s loving act of sending his only son, we receive the gift of faith in Jesus and become God’s beloved children. Our merit with God is not about what we do. It is based on what God has done for us. Out of that amazing gift we receive so many blessings from God. One of the things that I am learning is

that there are 52 things in the first three chapters of Ephesians that we receive as children of God. I am going to begin to focus on those things this summer to let this knowledge help to further ground me in who I am as a child of God. I invite you to do this with me. Take time to slowly read several verses at a time and take time to ponder what they are saying. Then pray for God to help you to visualize what the gift means for you, individually.

I would love to have a time later in the summer when we can gather to discuss how we were changed by soaking in these gifts that God gives us so freely. I am also open to meeting with you in person or on the phone to talk about what you are experiencing.

Our God is here present with us. We are so blessed to call ourselves Christians, and when we truly understand that we are the beloved children of God our lives and faith can become so rich, even in hard times.

May the grace and love of God be showered upon you now and in the days to come.

Blessings,
Vicar Carol



Tribute to Graduating Seniors:

I asked our graduating seniors to share about a favorite high school memory and then to share what their plans are for the future.

Megan Weitzel graduated from Delphos Jefferson High School. I will be attending Bowling Green State University in the fall, majoring in Education. I think my favorite memory of high school would be making new friends and having great new experiences. I also learned how to use my faith to help me get through tough times, especially the Coronavirus pandemic.

Thomas Calvelage graduated from Fort Jennings High School as well as the Vantage Career Center. Thomas graduated with a concentration in Construction Management Technology. Because of his education at Vantage he has already been working for Fencing Contracting out of Fort Jennings and he plans to continue working for them.

When asked about his education he stated that what he will remember most is meeting all of the people, developing friendships, and appreciating the teachers who were so helpful to him in his learning.

McKensie Buck graduated from Delphos Jefferson High School.

McKensie began attending St. Peter this fall and she attended quite regularly up until the middle of March. McKensie was quiet and often sat on the back, right side of the sanctuary as you entered it.

McKensie wrote that she is returning home to live with her father and brother in Rural Retreat West Virginia. She plans to attend Wytheville Community College for two years to earn an associate's degree in Applied Sciences in Protective Services Technology in Corrections Science. She then plans join the military and use this degree as a Military Police Officer. Eventually, she wants to get her bachelor's degree in social work and then go on to get a master's in counseling and work as a corrections counselor.

McKensie, we wish you well in all of your endeavors and pray God's blessing upon you as you journey back to West Virginia to pursue your dreams.



Plans for Holding our Worship Services Moving Forward During This Pandemic

The church council met on May 17, to discuss a plan of action for the next several months. At this point, we plan to continue to hold Drive-In Church through May 31. We have had a pretty good response with attendance ranging around 45 for the last two Sundays.

Because of the ever changing information that we are receiving about how to stay safe, the council has decided that we should continue to do Drive-In Church, but when we are allowed to gather with more than 10 people sitting with physical distancing that we would add the option of having people bring their lawn chairs and sit in the grassy area by the church. We are hoping that this can begin to happen in June.

We will continue to hold Wednesday evening services between Memorial Day and Labor Day. We will use the same bulletin for both services. If the weather is bad, Vicar Carol and Alida will stand in the main church entry way and have people park in front of the church to listen and participate in the service. This is a work in progress so everyone will need to be flexible.

One of the reasons we are not planning to do in building worship is because now it is being said that it is not safe for us to sing inside the building and that if we are in the building everyone must wear a mask. With the air flow outside, and the practice of having families sit together, but physically distancing from others, we think that it will be safe to sing and worship together. Wearing a mask could also then be optional.

Staying outside also will alleviate the need to sanitize the building after each service. We will

still request that you only enter the building if you have a restroom emergency or if you are part of the staff or set-up crew for the service. If you need to use the restroom, we will have sanitizing wipes and we ask that you wipe down the handles and other surfaces that you touch. This will help us to stay compliant and safe in regards to sanitizing after the restrooms are used.

At this point, communion is still on hold. When the Bishop gives us his blessing to take communion again, we want to be ready. We have ordered individually wrapped communion cups and wafers and they should arrive sometime in June. Hopefully, sometime in the summer we will be able to resume partaking of communion.

The council has also authorized the purchase of a radio transmitter so we can transmit the service over a radio signal to the cars when the weather is bad or if we are still worshipping outside the building when the fall comes. Many are predicting a second wave of the virus in the fall and this could impact our ability to worship inside. Most of the transmitters are on backorder so it is likely that we will not have one until sometime this summer. We want to be prepared in case we cannot get back into the building. Some of the council members volunteered to pay for this.

The council so appreciates everyone's patience and willingness to work together during this extraordinary time of uncertainty and change. May God continue to place a hedge of protection around you and to give each of you peace.

Submitted by Vicar Carol

Note that all of the council members were in attendance and in agreement with the current plan of action.



VBS - Unfortunately, due to the restrictions and situation caused by COVID-19, the Delphos Community Vacation Bible School Program sponsored and presented by St. Peter Lutheran and Trinity United Methodist has been canceled. As Ohio's situation continues to change, the VBS Committee is continuing to meet and look for ways to offer Family Christian Education opportunities throughout the summer and remain in compliance with the governor's and local health department's regulations and recommendations. If you have any ideas, please contact Carrie Calvelage via phone or text at 419-233-4561.

General Announcements



Radio ministry was given to the glory of God in March by:
The Himmeger Family in loving memory of Earl Himmeger
Ed and Sandy Talboom
Norma Koenig in memory of Ted Koenig

Radio Ministry was given to the glory of God in April by:
The Himmeger Family in loving memory of Earl Himmeger
Matt and Carrie Calvelage
Norma Koenig in memory of Ted Koenig
Mark and Linda Downey

Radio Ministry was given to the glory of God in May by:
Ed and Sandy Talboom
The Himmeger Family in loving memory of Earl Himmeger
Leonard and Shirley Jarman
Vicki and Roger Gossman for the shut-ins listening on the radio
Mark and Linda Downey



The flowers on the altar were given to the glory of God in March by:
Drew and Rachel Munshower in celebration of the baptism of their daughter,
Reagan Ann.



Readers Needed for the first and second scripture lessons and the prayers during the worship service. Your readings can be emailed to you so you can look them over in advance. Please sign up in the red book at the back of church.



Quilting Day will be Wednesday, June 10th, at 9:00 AM.

Altar Guild



Altar Guild's regular monthly meetings are the first Tuesday of each month. There are no regular meetings during the summer months of June, July and August. The next regular meeting will be September 1, 2020.

Remember our Shut-ins

Sharon Reel
Vancrest Health Care
10357 Van Wert-Decatur Rd
Van Wert OH 45891

Carl Dienstberger
E Fourth Street
Delphos OH 45833



Please pray for the following family and friends: Jim Schommoeller, Jodi Siefker, Doug Butler, Kristin LaSeta, Kyle Baxter, Dale Derrow, Beth Gener, Margot and Callie Tyler, Maya Lee-Pletcher, Judy Horstman, Gary Turnwalde, Barb Recker, Shirley Turner, Barb Adams, David Thompson, Bev Cross-McNeal, Sharon Calvelage, Melissa Hover, Jay Vondran, Tom Evans, Vicki Kramer,

Jerry Champion, Ronnette St. Pierre, Chet Todd, Erin Rammel, Colby Todd, Jeff LeClaire, Chad McGue, Cathy Woodward, Kaylee Rahrig, Mike Ammons, Bev Derrow, Nathan Calvelage and Janel Donley .

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

WELCA There are no scheduled meetings for June, July or August. The next regular meeting is September 14, 2020.

InReach/OutReach

Prayer Chain – If you would like your name added to the prayer chain, please contact Susan McGue at 419-234-6448. If you ever need a prayer chain started, please contact Susan on the cell phone number listed above. *Do NOT send her computer an email.* You may call or send her cell phone a text message. Susan is the primary start person and if she can't be reached by phone, then call the church office. Please have permission from the person or family before we publish any names.



Prayer Chain

Keep our Military Friends and Family in your Prayers:

Fred Hasting

Navy

Stateside

Dominic Munoz

Navy

Annapolis MD

thank
you!



JUNE BIRTHDAYS



2) Lauren French

23) Landon Morrow

5) Larry Miller

24) Stephanie Koenig

9) Dan Kramer

24) Shelby Koenig

14) Anna Fitch

25) Judy Staples

15) Michael Wortman

26) Jordan Vorst

16) Aaron Kloeppe

28) Barbara Cross

20) Mellie Stemen

29) Chad Hoersten

21) Elijah Kimmett

29) James Hasting

21) Dominic Munoz

30) Tyler Miller

21) Lexi Pierner

30) Matthew Weitzel



The St. Peter Congregation welcomes our newest member:

Reagan Ann Munshower, daughter of Rachel and Drew Munshower. She was baptized on March 15, 2020. We are proud to be part of her faith journey.

To the people of God at St. Peter- Thank you for reaching out to us in our time of need....we are so grateful for your generous offering to help us replace our boiler. We do have heaven and we are almost at our goal. We remain open during these uncertain times-daily giving out food and supplies to those who have been hit hardest by this COVID 19 outbreak. We are open to appointments each day so that folks have access to what they need most, especially those who cannot shop for themselves. God's blessing, Pastor and the people of Redeemer Lutheran



KIDS SUMMER BREAKFAST PROGRAM will be a little different this year due to COVID19! We will be doing a Grab 'N Go...one sacked breakfast and one sacked lunch per child! We will **NOT** be needing Sunny D, eggs or mini chocolate chips this year. Everything we pack will be pre-packaged. Donations of different type items will still be accepted! Please get in touch with Susan McGue if you want to donate, 419-234-6448. Thank you.



Congratulations to our high school graduates:

McKensie Buck, Thomas Calvelage, and Megan Weitzel



REMINDER: Get those saved Chief register tapes turned in. The end of the school year is almost here. Chief's doesn't offer "Community Cash" during the summer months. Deposit your receipts in the container in Fellowship Hall. All tapes must say "Community Cash" on them and must be from the Delphos Chief Store.

thank you

Thanks for all the cards, thoughts and prayers when I had my knee surgery.
Randy Rinehart

COMMUNITY



AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

American Red Cross Blood drive will be at Knight of Columbus, 1011 Elida Ave, Delphos, Ohio on Wednesday, June 3, 2020 from 2:00pm-7:00 pm.

Or mark your calendar for Thursday, July 2, Eagles Delphos, 1600 E 5th St, Delphos, Ohio from 10:30 am – 4:30 pm.



Habitat for Humanity - Lima Area: News and Needs

News: Our most recent partner family moved into their new Habitat house in Elida a few days before Thanksgiving, thanks to the generosity of many people, businesses, and churches. It was a wonderful house dedication celebrating the volunteer hours, meals served, monetary donations, and prayers that offered a new life to this family. The Habitat ReStore was transformed a number of times in the last two months, as groups volunteered for a day offering their energy and

time.

Needs: 1. Regular volunteers at the ReStore or volunteer groups to come in for a day. 2. Funds for our next build (every \$62 buys a square foot of a Habitat house). 3. Monthly meal for 30 ReStore volunteers. 4. Affiliate sustaining/ongoing donations of \$10 a month (*No Place Like Home* club).

Please contact us to volunteer or donate: (phone) 419-222-4937, (website) www.habitatlima.org, (email) habitatlima@habitatlima.org.

Servants of the Lord

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
Jun 7	9:00 AM			

MONEY COUNTERS: Karen Hartman, Lois Ewing

ALTAR GUILD: Karen Hartman, Sue Apple

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
June 14	9:00 AM			

MONEY COUNTERS: Dan Staples, Ryan Trentman

ALTAR GUILD: Karen Hartman, Sue Apple

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
June 21	9:00 AM			

MONEY COUNTERS: Dan Staples, Ryan Trentman

ALTAR GUILD: Karen Hartman, Sue Apple

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
June 28	9:00 AM			

MONEY COUNTERS: Deb Trentman, Karen Hartman

ALTAR GUILD: Karen Hartman, Sue Apple

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
July 5	9:00 AM			

MONEY COUNTERS: Deb Trentman, Karen Hartman

ALTAR GUILD: Karen Hartman, Judy Staples

