



PASTOR'S LETTER

Mothers. What can one say? Through our lives most of us can say that our relationships with our mothers have had good moments and bad moments.

My relationship with my mother fits that pattern. If I'm honest, I'd have to say there were times I hated her. Of course, I was also in High School at the time and well, those can be rough years that take their toll on the parent-child relationship. And even though I hurt my mom's feelings, she still loved me.

Moms are important, and deep down we love them no matter what. Even children who are abused by their mothers amazingly still love them. Moms take care of us, worry about us, and love us. No matter how old we are, we will always be their child.

This becomes the model of our relationship with God. God takes care of us, worries about us, and loves us unconditionally. And if we are honest, there are times when we hate God and hurt God, but God still loves us. And deep down we love God.

In Isaiah 66:13 we hear God say, "As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you". God is our mother who comforts us as only a mother can.

Sunday, May 9th, is Mother's Day this year – the day we honor our mothers for all that they do for us. No matter what state your relationship is in with your mother – call her if she still lives; let her know that she is important to you and that you love her. If your mother has died, you can still speak to her and let her know what she meant and still means to you.

Then sit down with God, no matter what state your relationship is in with God, and let God know how important God is to you.

Blessings,
Pastor Sandra

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RETURNING TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP UPDATE

**WE HOPE TO RE-START IN-PERSON WORSHIP
ON SUNDAY, MAY 9.**

When we do return to in-person worship, we will continue with offering an online version, but it will change.

We will do a Facebook Live service for those who still wish to watch from home.

To view, all you will need to do is go to our website, or if you can, go directly to our Facebook page.

Additional note: when we return to in-person worship we will have in-person Adult Bible Study Class, but it will not meet on May 9, because May 9 is Mothers Day.



INTERN CORNER

By Deacon Intern Lisa Diana

The Breath of Peace



As we return to worshipping in person, life is not going to be exactly as it was before the pandemic. We're still going to be practicing some sort of social distance measures, such as mask wearing, hand washing and physical distance. Still, it will be nice to see each other's faces, at least partially, and hear each other's voices, even though muffled. Eyes can smile as well as mouths. We may have to reacquaint ourselves with each other, especially after being away from one another for so long. It will require some patience and take some time to begin to renew those relationships again.

We have all suffered during this time. Whether it has been through physical loss of a loved one, emotional loss of a relationship, or mental loss of having a regular routine to follow... So, let's give one another grace to begin to heal from this time apart. One of the things that has happened since we have been socially distanced is that we have come to appreciate what we've been missing—the celebrations and milestones that we are used to. Maybe we can find new ways to celebrate and recognize those special moments. This time away has been an exercise in having to adapt, to be flexible, to grow and change, and to widen what we consider to be normal.

How have we been able to meet this challenge? I think wonderfully. We have learned that we are a resilient people. How can we use what we have learned about ourselves to move forward in faith? By participating however we are able in joining God's mission of loving God, ourselves, and our neighbor. Many will continue joining us on-line for worship. Can we meet this challenge of being a community together and apart? The Spirit knows no physical bounds. And shall we allow ourselves to be enlivened by Christ's love? The Risen Christ came through the upper room to offer his disciples peace, by breathing on the Holy Spirit. His peace offers us a new way of being. Peace be with you as we come to meet one another again, whether it is in person or through distance.

MAY CELEBRATIONS	<p>Birthdays:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keith Fox, 5/10 • Ian Lopez, 5/11 • Roger Mathre, 5/13 • Peggy Thackston, 5/25 <p>Anniversaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none 	<p>VIRTUAL FELLOWSHIP HAPPY HOURS ARE ON TUESDAYS AT 6:30!</p> <p>The Zoom link will be sent out by email.</p> <p>This month's dates are May 11 and May 25.</p> <p>(SEE CALENDAR ON PAGE 5)</p>	<p>CAM DONATIONS FOR MAY</p> <p>RICE AND BEANS</p> 
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PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Harry Miller, Frieda Atkinson, DeWitt Atkinson, Bob French, Donald Leonard, Edna Hacker, Peter Georgiev, Kim Higginson, Alice Little, Marion Schroeder, Karen French, Faye Randow, Jolanda Wood, Francis Laubach, Anita Carroll, Janelle Kinsel, Scott Dittloff, Marta Yanez, Jess Young, and Our Military, particularly Michael Foglio, Christian Alaniz, Jordan Bielfeldt, and all of our veterans.



HAVE YOU CONSIDERED GIVING ELECTRONICALLY WITH TITHE.LY?

Want to give to your church using the convenience of your smartphone? No problem! Download the **Tithe.ly** App from the App Store (iPhone) or Google Play Store (Android). Once you've downloaded the app, create an account or log in, locate your church, and tap "Give Now" to complete your gift!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday Adult Class Resuming In-person

With worship resuming and many people having received their vaccine, we will resume an in-person Adult Class (following safety guidelines) after worship. Class will begin on May 16 rather than on Mother's Day to allow people to celebrate the mothers in their lives.

After such a difficult year, we will start off with some fun and talk about Play. Too many of us are far too serious, but God didn't intend for us to be serious all the time. We hear in scripture how Wisdom danced and played at the creation. Join us for some lighthearted but also serious conversation about dancing and playing in God's creation.

TWO WAYS TO GET HOUSE OF PRAYER'S CHURCH APP ON YOUR PHONE

- To find and download our church App, go within your mobile device's app store (Google Play/iOS App Store) and search "Church App - [Tithe.ly](#)". The [Tithe.ly](#) Church App houses hundreds on apps from across the world! To find your church app within the [Tithe.ly](#) Church app, just open the app and search for your church by name or zip code. Once you have selected your church's specific app, the next time you open the [Tithe.ly](#) Church App, you app's designs will be ready and waiting - no searching involved. This [Tithe.ly](#) Church App will also ensure that your App Icon switches from the [Tithe.ly](#) Logo to your church's personal logo. This app icon switcher is compatible on most mobile cellular devices.
 - Go to this link on your smartphone. <https://tithely.app.link/house-of-prayer-lutheran>.

WONDERFUL WORK WITH LUTHERAN CARE KITS!

Here is what our caring congregants have made:

33 personal kits
8 fabric kits
8 baby kits
5 school kits

If you are still working on one, it is not too late to turn it in! Just let us know ASAP that you will be bringing it so that we know to wait to ship them all.

Now that Lent is over...

THE FELLOWSHIP VIRTUAL HAPPY HOURS ARE BACK!

They have moved from Thursdays to Tuesdays.



Join us on Tuesday, May 11 and May 25 at 6:30 p.m. A link will be sent out by email.



“OPEN DOORS” GRANTS

The ELCA is offering grants to churches that propose a **specific and actionable idea** for how its ministry might enable members to **meet new people** while regathering in community as COVID-19 considerations allow.

Do you have an idea about

- How can we **meet new people**, especially as we crave community following a time of unprecedented isolation?
- How might we stay connected with people who have not visited our church buildings but **joined us online**?
- As we adjust to post-pandemic life, how can we create **new ideas** to meet the changing needs of our communities?

This is a competition and a limited number of ideas will win a grant. The deadline is May 12, so if you have an idea that you think we should send to the ELCA for their consideration, please let us know ASAP.

MOTHER'S DAY FUN FACTS



- In the 1600's England, Mothering Sunday took place on the 4th Sunday of Lent. It began with a prayer service in honor of the Virgin Mary. Afterwards children would present their moms with flowers.
- In 1870 a female activist, writer and poet by the name of Julia Ward (she wrote the “Battle Hymn of the Republic”) suggested a day of peace and strongly advocated other women to stand up against the war. From this plea she was able to get Boston to recognize mothers on the second Sunday of June.
- Anna Jarvis was also a woman that may have been behind our traditional Mother's Day celebration on the second Sunday of May. Anna never had any children, but wanted to carry out her own mother's wishes of having a day just for moms. Anna tirelessly campaigned and on May 8th, 1914 President Woodrow Wilson signed a Joint Resolution designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.
- In the vast majority of the world's languages, the word for “mother” begins with the letter M.
- In the United States alone, around 122 million phone calls are made to moms on Mother's Day.
- The shortest span between two babies is by mom, Jayne Bleackley. She gave birth to her son on September 3, 1999. Then only 208 days later gave birth to her daughter (on March 30, 2000).
- Elizabeth Ann Buttler gives a whole new meaning to second family. She gave birth to her first child (a girl) May 19, 1956. Then when she was 60 years old, she gave birth to her son on November 20, 1997, making the babies 41 years apart.



MAY 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<p>Worship: At 6 a.m., a link will be sent to the virtual service.</p> <p>11:00 Adult Bible Study via Zoom</p>						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<p>Worship: At 10 a.m., worship will take place in person and be broadcasted online.</p> <p>At 11 am., Adult Bible Study via Zoom</p>		<p>VIRTUAL FELLOWSHIP HAPPY HOUR VIA ZOOM 6:30 P.M.</p>				
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<p>Worship: At 10 a.m., worship will take place in person and be broadcasted online.</p> <p>At 11 am., Adult Bible Study in person</p>						
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<p>Worship: At 10 a.m., worship will take place in person and be broadcasted online.</p> <p>At 11 am., Adult Bible Study in person</p>		<p>VIRTUAL FELLOWSHIP HAPPY HOUR VIA ZOOM 6:30 P.M.</p>				
30	31					
<p>Worship: At 10 a.m., worship will take place in person and be broadcasted online.</p> <p>At 11 am., Adult Bible Study in person</p>						



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Worship depends on quarantine restrictions and can be viewed on our website. Office hours are Tuesday through Friday, from 3:00 – 5:30 p.m.; for emergencies, please call Pastor Sandra at 210-248-7837.

Reverend Sandra Leifeste
Dick Thackston, Congregation President
Marcus Trejo, Vice President
Jenifer Larson, Treasurer
Shirley Vasquez, Member @ Large
Personnel, TBA
Worship Team, TBA
Emmie Lou Schwarzer, Ministry Team
Eva Poblano, Fellowship
Roberta Hanes, Stewardship
Dave Johnson, Property
Jennifer Alaniz, CIELO Ministries



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