

The Carillon Newsletter

July 2020



*Our Vision:
Welcoming all to a
faith community of
service and love.*

Dear *Ekklesia*,

Wait why am I calling you all *Ekklesia*? *Ekklesia* is the Greek word in the New Testament that we take the word “church” from. The word *Ekklesia* from the time of the early church has been defined as, “a gathering of citizen called out from their homes into some public place, an assembly” or even another definition, “the whole body of Christians scattered through the earth.” Reread those definitions again and let it sink in.

We are the church. The church is NOT in a building. I have seen some thinking worship is not happening right now, because we are not gathered in the sanctuary or church is “on hold.” It is not. We need to really dive into the ancient meaning of church to see it is still happening. Even though worship is happening online we are still “gathering together” in a public space (on the internet). In addition, we are part of the church body that is scattered through the earth—there are Christians all over the world and we are united with them.

Now this idea of church being the people is rooted in our Protestant tradition. Presbyterians and Lutherans historically have fought against the idea of idol worship and that includes a space being used as an idol. Idolatry is when an image or object is worshipped. This connects with the idea of *adiaphora*. In the Lutheran Confessions *adiaphora* are “customs/things that are not necessary.” Also, in Calvin’s Institutes in chapter 11 he explains in detail why idols are against everything biblically. And the founder of modern-day

Church Staff

Rev. Michelle
de Beauchamp
Senior Pastor

Jeani Shofner
Lay Associate Pastor

Teri Julian
**Administrative
Assistant/Bookkeeper**

Kari Hasbrouck
Music/Worship Director

Troy George
Choir Director

Lillian Matheson
Coffee Hour Minister

Council Members

Sue Varland
Howard Morris
Eric Shofner
Tony Enzler
Ingrid Larson
Nola Bell

Sharal Whitecliff

Presbyterianism John Knox went after idolatry and how we need to not be focused on things. So why am I writing this? The history and cultural foundations of both traditions of Lutheranism and Presbyterianism...which are part of Protestantism have set us up for a time such as this. We can pivot. We can change. We are not called to hold onto things of this world—customs that we think must happen for worship to happen. God calls us to gather in whatever capacity to worship God. That doesn't mean we have to do it the same way every time. Did you know there is no place whatsoever in the Bible or Confession/Institutes where it says communion should happen every week? Did you know gathering in a home with our family for worship is closer to what the early church was like? Think about it. The early Christians secretly had to meet in their homes or other gathering places—like the catacombs in Rome. They did not have buildings as houses of worship to gather at first. We are experiencing life so differently right now having to gather online or talk from a distance with each other. We are gathering, dear church! Even as we, the church, are scattered across the earth.

Someone pointed out to me a few weeks ago the blessings of technology. Twenty-five years ago, we would not be able to gather like we have for worship. I barely would be able to record something and send it out via email and maybe that would have not happened. It probably would only be a transcript of a sermon or a prayer. We are blessed that we can, right now, in the midst of this pandemic, still be connected and see each other's faces via technology. It would have been more isolating than in the past. Amid all this we are being blessed that we can gather virtually and stay safe.

Trust me, I would rather be in person right now if there wasn't a pandemic going on. I would love not having to work all these hours of editing and get human to human contact, but that is not safe right now. It is not safe for my family or for each of you. I would be devastated if because of gathering someone got ill. I am called to be your pastor and good steward of you, dear church. Therefore, sadly we cannot gather in our building right now, however we are still living into our call to "love our neighbors" by protecting each other from what can be a deadly virus.

Thanks be to God that we are the church that is not about a place but about the people. Thanks be to God that we have the freedom to change customs and not have idols to cling to. Thanks be to God that our faith is grounded in the Word of God. Thanks be to God for each of you still reaching out and connecting with one another. Thanks be to God for inspiring humans to create things like technology.

During such a time as this stay safe church. Know that I pray for each of you every day, and that Jesus is walking with you during these unknown times.

Peace and Blessings,
Pastor Michelle

Church Council News

The church council, along with Pastors Michelle and Jeani, held our regular Zoom meeting on June 14.

One item we discussed concerned the funds we received in April from the US government Payroll Protection Plan under the CARES Act. The funds have now been used as required, and we are currently beginning the process of applying for the loan forgiveness. We expect to complete that application in July.

As you all may recall, Pastor Michelle received a wonderful grant to use for her sabbatical which was to start this July and end in October. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, many of her planned retreats and activities have been cancelled. Also, there are current travel restrictions and quarantine requirements which would affect her sabbatical plans. Pastor Michelle asked the council for approval to postpone her sabbatical one year. The council voted to allow the change of dates, so the sabbatical will now begin in July and end in October 2021. And, I suspect we are all rather happy to have both Pastor Michelle and Pastor Jeani working together in the coming months, to lead and guide us during these trying times.

Our most extensive conversation dealt with church reopening. We know many of you desire to worship together again. We know, too, that other churches on the harbor are beginning to reopen, however Pastor Michelle would like to note as of June 30th only one ELCA church in our county and the surrounding 4 counties is open and they are able to do this because of how their building is set up.

Council considered options and concluded that until the state is in Phase 3 or 4, we would be risking the health of our generally older congregation by holding in-person services at this time. For insurance liability, we are required to follow all state guidelines. That means, if we were holding church services in person social distancing, sitting only in household groups, and face masks will be required. In addition, we would probably have to have people sign up to attend per Sunday so that we were following the capacity rules.

The service would look different in many ways. There would be no communion, the only music being allowed would be recorded, and singing along would not be permitted. Following the service, those attending must leave the building immediately with no social hour. And the state is requiring a complete disinfection of the building every time we would hold a service. In addition, worship in the sanctuary at this time might not be possible because of the use of the stairwells and elevator and social distancing requirements. In addition, due to health concerns of the staff and/or their households they would be wearing masks. With these requirements and a concern for the health of

us all, the council voted to keep the building closed in July and reevaluate for August. For more details please see Pastor Michelle's letter in this newsletter about the survey.

Please note that I said the "building" is closed. Church for Saron-First is very much up and running. Pastors Michelle and Jeani are continually adding to our weekly online worship service. The Rose Blast lists opportunities for worship and fellowship. Want to go to the Wednesday morning coffee? Click on the Zoom link on the Weekly Rose Blast and join us. Don't use the internet? The office is making DVD recordings of worship that they will get to you (along with a DVD player if you do not have one). Please use these opportunities to stay connected. It is not the same, but it is what we have for the time being. That being said, please look after each other. It's a very lonely time for many of us. If you know someone who is needing support, reach out...give a call...put on face masks and take a walk together...and please let the church office know of any special needs.

Sincerely,
Sue Varland

Office News

During this unprecedented time of change in our daily lives, we want you to know that we are expecting questions. Please ask for help with anything that you may need, especially when it comes to technology. We have the knowledge and resources to help. If you have questions about Zoom, we can answer them (you could even practice with your admin during the day). If you would like to watch worship on a DVD, we are able to get a Worship DVD to you. If you do not have a DVD player, or internet, please contact the office. We can help. We want you to get everything out of what we can give right now. Please email or call the office. The building is closed, but we are available.



PRAYER PAGE

A Prayer for a time of conflict, crisis, disaster

Time of conflict, crisis, disaster O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted, grant courage and hope. Where anxiety is infectious and widening, grant peace and reassurance. Where impossibilities close every door and window, grant imagination and resistance. Where distrust twists our thinking, grant healing and illumination. Where spirits are daunted and weakened, grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams. All these things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 76)

Prayer from Ephesians 3:16-19

I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

A Prayer in Time of Pandemic

Written by the Rev. Dr. Kate Sonderegger

This hour we turn to you, O Lord, in full knowledge of our frailty, our vulnerability, and our great need as your mortal creatures. We cry to you, as one human family, unsure of the path ahead, unequal to the unseen forces around us, frightened by the sickness and death that seem all too real to us now. Stir up your strength and visit us, O Lord; be our shield and rock and hiding place! Guide our leaders, our scientists, our nurses and doctors. Give them wisdom and fill their hearts with courage and determination. Make even this hour, O Lord, a season of blessing for us, that in fear we find you mighty to save, and in illness or death, we find the cross to be none other than the way of life. All this we ask in the name of the One who bore all our infirmities, even Jesus Christ our Risen and Victorious Lord. **Amen.**

Please keep the following in your prayers...

*Sarah Alvarez and Brandy, Magnolia,
John & Sarah Leigh Sullivan,
The family and friends of Russel Shofner,
Liz, Stephanie, Julie, Joe Pearson,
Sunshine Obi, Jose and Naomie, Troy,
Andrea and Ryder, Leah and her family,
Lillian Matheson, Ken Matheson,
Gus Schmidt, Michael Fleming,
JoJean Young, Steven McFail,
Charlene Hood, Nancy Nisinger,
Alex Reid and family, Brendan,
Leona Anderson, Toni Black, Crissy,
Gary Evans, Doris Rosenbach, Simon,
Cindy, Sarah Powell, Tom Petrich,
Connie McCroskey, Angel Temaj,
Val Rhodes, Andy, Andrew, Robert
Holladay, Diane Mann, Arbie & Bonnie
Irwin, Mackenzie Murray, Wayne Carter,
Pastor Jeani, Yvonne,
Police Officers & First Responders.*

WEDNESDAY VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR

Our first virtual coffee hour was a success! We will be continuing our virtual fellowship every Wednesday at 10am. On Mondays/Tuesdays when the Rose Blast is published, the link for the Zoom conference will be included. You do not have to have a computer to join as there is a way to simply call in. Please contact the office if you have any questions.

ONLINE WORSHIP ASSISTING MINISTERS

If you are interested in reading or reciting prayers for worship service online, please contact Pastor Michelle about the possibility of adding recordings to the worship service. You do not have to be an expert – we can help!

BOOK CLUB

Keep your eye out for next weeks Rose Blast for information on the Book Club. Some decisions are still to be made; details will be available for a potential meeting in the second week of July.

SUNDAY HYMN SING

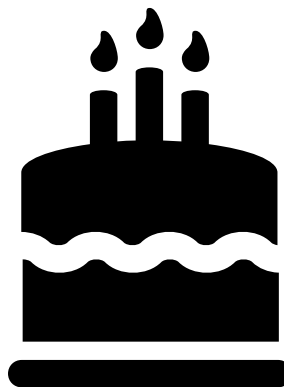
Worship on August 2 will be a Hymn Sing! We will have many of the regular parts of worship including a short message but there will be tons of hymns you can sing along with! We had a PDF of the lyrics that will be sent out as an attachment to the Rose Blast so you can follow along. However, if you just want us to mail you a paper copy of the lyrics, we will gladly do that— just call or email the office to let us know you need one. People without internet that have requested DVDs we will be sending you the lyrics along with your DVD.

JULY @ Home with Saron First

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
All *in-person* activities and Worship is postponed. Please see schedule below for online services. They can be accessed on our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/Saron1st/ as well as on our YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZNdVOZECCOpZ0ZZQBVU2Zg						
			1	2	3	4
			10a Virtual Coffee Hour 5p DW&P	8a Music w/Kari	5p DW&P	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10a O/L Worship	5p DW&P	8a Music w/David 1p Kids Corner	10a Virtual Coffee Hour 5p DW&P	8a Music w/Kari	5p DW&P	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10a O/L Worship	5p DW&P <i>UGM Team 1</i>	8a Music w/David 1p Kids Corner	10a Virtual Coffee Hour 5p DW&P	8a Music w/Kari	5p DW&P	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10a O/L Worship Council Meeting	5p DW&P	8a Music w/David 1p Kids Corner	10a Virtual Coffee Hour 5p DW&P	8a Music w/Kari	5p DW&P	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
10a O/L Worship	5p DW&P	8a Music w/David 1p Kids Corner				

July Birthdays

3-July - MacKenzie Smith
5-July - Roy McClure
6-July - Val Rhodes
13-July - Mike Root
17-July - Mike Erikkinen
20-July - Barbara Fairchild
20-July - Sean McAllister
26-July - Haldis Totland
26-July - Kim Worsham
30-July - Ona Karnath



Council Meeting

Next Council Meeting will
be July 19th.



Assisting Minister Schedule

Please stay home and stay healthy! We will be together again!



Family Outreach Night!

Free Community Meal!

Our wonderful Lutheran & Presbyterian cooks are prepared to serve our neighbors at the next Community Meal that will take place once we are able to gather again safely.

Union Gospel Mission Dinner

July 20th

Team 1 will be organizing the *July* meal for the Union Gospel Mission Dinner.

Collecting Hygiene Items

We are still collecting hygiene items for our friends who come to the community meal. Once we are able to host again, these items will go fast. Looking forward, we could use a bit of sunscreen/sunblock and lip balm. Socks & hand/feet warmers are always appreciated. We would also like to be able to provide soap, shampoo, feminine products, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, and pet food (we split up bags into baggies, feel free to donate a large bag). Protein bars, granola bars, instant coffee and hot chocolate are a nice touch as well. Please contact the office to schedule a time to bring your items. Thank you for your generous hearts!



Property Committee

Task List – what can you help with? Please let the Office know!

Adjust the fit of the door from the courtyard into the office?
(a warmer weather project)

Do you know someone with a 50'+ man lift who would be willing to help us investigate the condition of the steeple and adjacent roof?

Can you help repair the damaged accordion wall that gets rolled out monthly for community dinners?

There are always projects to do! If you are interested in receiving Property Committee emails and are willing to put your hand up to help, please let the office know. You will be added to the email list and receive occasional notifications of projects that need to be done.

June Contributions

\$8190

June Finance Recap

Gen Fund Income: \$8190
Normal Expenses: \$12,314
Difference: (\$4124)



**Thank you for mailing in and dropping off your contributions!
We can do this!**

Office Hours

The office is currently closed. Please contact the office if you need access.

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