

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Weekly E-Newsletter

for May 26, 2020

Worship Notes

(How to navigate Zoom worship while sheltering in place even if you don't have a computer or a Smart phone)

Zoom is a handy program that helps us to be together (virtually, that is), in real time. The program allows us to see each other and to chat before worship begins and afterward.

You don't have to download anything to your computer, tablet or Smart phone. Just click on the link I will send via email, or copy and paste this link into your browser (the address line on your internet page): <https://zoom.us/j/99542107271> The link includes the Meeting ID

However, if you don't have access to a computer, you can always call in just before worship begins. You won't be able to see us, and we won't be able to see you, but we'll see your phone number and know you're connected. You can interact with everyone else who is logged into the worship service, and you can hear the worship service in real time.

All you need to do is to call **1 301-715-8592**, wait for the prompt, and enter this ID: **995 4210 7271**.

These numbers and links will work every single week for as long as we continue to worship this way.

If you happen to miss church at 10:00, Kallie Mill records the services each week and posts them on Gloria Dei's Facebook page, so you can always watch the service at your convenience, here:

<https://www.facebook.com/gloria.dei.940/videos/965980630484659/>

Despite what you've recently heard...

...the truth is that the church has never closed, it has always been open. The buildings where we worship, are just that, buildings made of stone and brick. And yes, God is with us in those buildings, but God is with us in our homes, in our work, in our play, and in our daily lives. God is with us always.

Prayer continues to happen everywhere. Worship continues to happen everywhere. The work of the church, caring for each other and our neighbors continues to happen everywhere. The building is not the church; we are the church, together.

And while I miss gathering together, seeing all your faces, greeting you with hugs, and putting bread into your hands at communion, the fact is we can't gather in person for the foreseeable future. We can't open now because not one member of our congregation is expendable. Not a single one. There is no person's life or health that I am willing to sacrifice so that we can have a taste of normalcy right now. It's too risky and I care about you all too much.

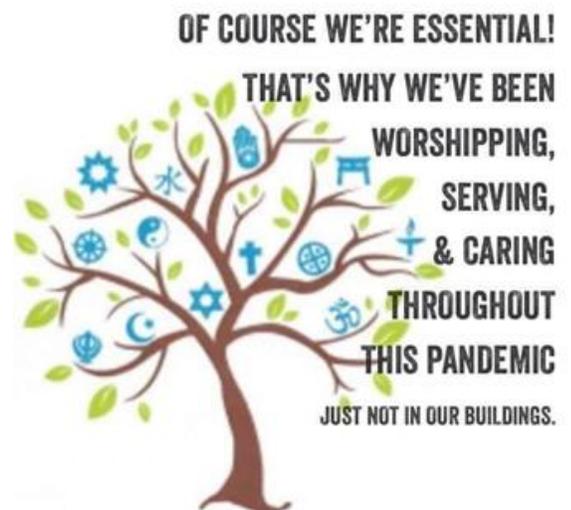
I hear your lament that you are so desperately missing your church home. And I am so honored and privileged to be your pastor and my heart breaks when I hear your sorrow. And I wish that I could be with you in person as we sing together, and break bread together, and read scripture together.

But I believe my heart would break if one of you became gravely ill because the church council and I were too careless to heed the warnings and we re-opened the buildings too soon. My heart would break so fully that it would never heal again because my vocation as pastor is to shepherd you and not put you at risk.

We will gather together again in person one day, hopefully someday soon.

But until we gather together again, we can have faith in the knowledge that we are still a family, we are still the church and the church will always be open because God is with us always and everywhere.

+Pastor Peggy



Around the Church



All worship services and meetings held via Zoom

Adult Sunday School

Sunday, May 24 – 9:00 am

Sunday Worship service

Sunday, May 24 – 10 am

Church Council

Thursday, May 28 – 6:00 pm

Women's Bible Study

Friday, May 29, 8:30 am

Adult Sunday School

Sunday, May 31 – 9:00 am

IT'S PENTECOST – wear red!

Sunday Worship service

Sunday, May 31 – 10 am



Each week, you can log into the class by pasting this link into your browser. Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8997130571>

Or call **1 301-715-8592** and enter the following Meeting ID: **8997130571**

Helping our Neighbors

In addition to helping out with the Saturday community meals and distributing food each week, Gloria Dei has begun to:

- Use a portion of grant we received from the Coquille India Tribe for Senior meals, to purchase grocery gift cards for seniors
- An anonymous member has donated \$1000 to purchase grocery and VISA gift cards to be distributed to anyone in need.
- Pastor has freed up an additional \$1000 from the discretionary fund to purchase grocery and gift cards for anyone in need.



Need a Facial Mask?

Doris Smith has been sewing masks "like a virtual factory" for anyone who needs them. Just contact her at (541) 888-9566 or at scrapsmith@charter.net

- How many do you need?
- Would you prefer a wire nosepiece or not?
- Do you prefer elastic worn around the ears or cloth ties worn around the head?

If she gets too many requests, she'll enlist help or refer folks elsewhere. If an organization needs masks, please contact Coos Health and Wellness, (541) 266-6700. They have become a collection place for community masks.

RECENTLY PRESENTED TALK AT WELCA LUNCH

Fight chronic inflammation and disease with simple food choices

Presented by Registered Dietitian Stephanie Polizzi
OSU Extension
Family & Community Health

Sponsored by
North Bend Public Library

Tue Jun 2
12-1:00 pm

Online Webinar

To join go to:

<https://oregonstate.zoom.us/j/229803250>



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Around the Church

Churches are essential...
we already knew that.

When the faithful are scattered in every age
due to persecution, disaster, or plague,
we persist in worship and service,
in sacrament and sacrifice –
feeding the hungry,
clothing the naked,
welcoming the stranger,
being good news for the poor,
working to free the captives and oppressed.

Our highest and holy calling
is to be the church,
not go to church.

“

The difficult I'll do
right now, the
impossible will
take a little

“

while.

Billie Holiday

Looking for Work?

Regardless of the pandemic, there are currently employment and training opportunities available now in Coos County. Available positions are in retail, truck driver training, manufacturing, etc.

Please contact
Adam Wideman
at 541 751-8528 or
Chip Causey
at 541 751-8522.

Remember in Prayer



For all essential workers, Medical personnel, mail carriers, delivery drivers, first responders, police, food processors and restaurant and grocery workers, that they stay safe during this crisis

Don Bunyard – Continued health issues.

Paul Danville – Member of Faith Lutheran, whose wife, Delores, died last week

Kay Hamilton – health issues

Bonnie Hribar's daughter – working in a hostile & unsafe environment

Nancy Resheske – hospitalized with breathing issues

The family of Maxine Wood – as they mourn her death on Monday
Pastor Craig Johnson and his wife, Karen, a nurse, who tested positive for the COVID-19 virus this week. Pr. Craig has now tested positive as well. He's hospitalized. (Christ Lutheran, Canby)

Leslie Green – mourning the death of her husband, Buddy.

Darla Scott – Surgery expected this week. Sister of Annette Reher

The Russell family, mourning the death of Wanita.

The congregation of Faith, and Pastor Israel Jurich.

For Jim and John, nephews of June Phillips, as they face cancer.

Transition Team News

The Transition Team met on Friday, May 15, to discuss the surveys that had been returned. While we have only received about 32 surveys, we felt it necessary to discuss the responses. Marilyn Carefully logged and listed all the responses – (the word ‘welcoming’ was used 16 times to describe Gloria Dei). Annette Reher wrote a summary, which I’ll include here:

Positive: The word welcoming was used to describe Gloria Dei 16 times in separate surveys.
Liking our traditions and liturgy (8)
That our church is involved in community outreach (13) and works with other churches
RIC is mentioned (10) under the question of ‘when we were tested’ but mostly positive.
Our internship program (11)
Logos players and performances (6)
Our choir and music programs (6)
Support of meals, such as the Senior meals, Soup Suppers & other food programs (9)
The weekly Bible studies and small groups (5)
The yearly “Blessing of the Animals” at Mingus Park (2)
Liking the Coffee Hours (2)
Our Easter Sunrise Service at the beach (2)
Numerous mentions of Pastor Peggy’s service at Gloria Dei

Negative: The need to attract youth and young families (9)
The kitchen remodel was brought up under the question of trying times – several comments on people not being able to get along.
Too much talking in the sanctuary before service begins (3)
Not crazy about our welcoming traditions such as greeting one another during the Sharing of the Peace (2)
Responses for the question regarding trying times – Looking for a new pastor (7) and Pastor Strasman leaving unexpectedly (2)
Neglect of our building (1)
Concern over how we will develop the newly donated property (2)
The mention of our Church being “Old in membership” (1) and too white (1)
Reducing coffee hour time (1)
The ceiling in the sanctuary is too high (3)
There were two mentions or concerns that we really don’t fit well with the title, *Evangelical*, the thought was that the word might scare people off. It was felt that the word, *Evangelical* could send the wrong message about who we are as a church.

Our next goal is to discuss some of these responses in small groups in “break-out” sessions via Zoom after worship on Sundays.

Transition Team Members:

If you have any questions, please call the church office, Pastor, or one of the members on the Transition Team.

Don Blom, (290-5317),
Lynn Danner, (217-4655),
Marilyn Halvor, (756-5791),
Kathie Hodgin, (266-0816),
Connie Monahan, (217-1866),
Annette Reher, (266-0730), and
Pr. Peggy Yingst, (802-579-1948)

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church Council Meeting Thursday, April 23 2020

The meeting (via "Zoom") was called to order at 6:07p.m. by President Richard Whitwer and a quorum was established.

Attending: Boyd Bjorkquist, Paul Halvor, Jim Gilbert, Kathie Hodgins, Annette Reher, Kathy Jacobson, Linda Mitchell, Connie Monahan, Curtis Buell, Ian Stevenson, Kelly Northcutt, Richard Whitwer, Pastor Peggy Yingst, and Lynn Danner. (Also, non-voting attendees Jim Gilbert, Treasurer and Jen Shafer, bookkeeper).

Devotions: given by Lynn Danner .

Financial Reports

- **Treasurer's Report for March, 2020**
- The regular giving for March was \$23,372 , the highest in the last six years.. The regular giving to date is \$64,564, the highest in the last eight years.
- The net Ordinary Income for March was \$4,930. The net Ordinary income to date was \$6,659.
- The net Total Income for March was \$9,137. The net Total Income to date was \$18,831.
- No withdrawals were made from the Contingency.
- No money was transferred from the Maintenance fund to the General fund.
- We have applied for a Paycheck Protection Program loan in the amount of \$31,114. We don't know yet if our application has been approved.
- **The Treasurer's Report was accepted with no changes; thanks were expressed to Jim and Jen.**

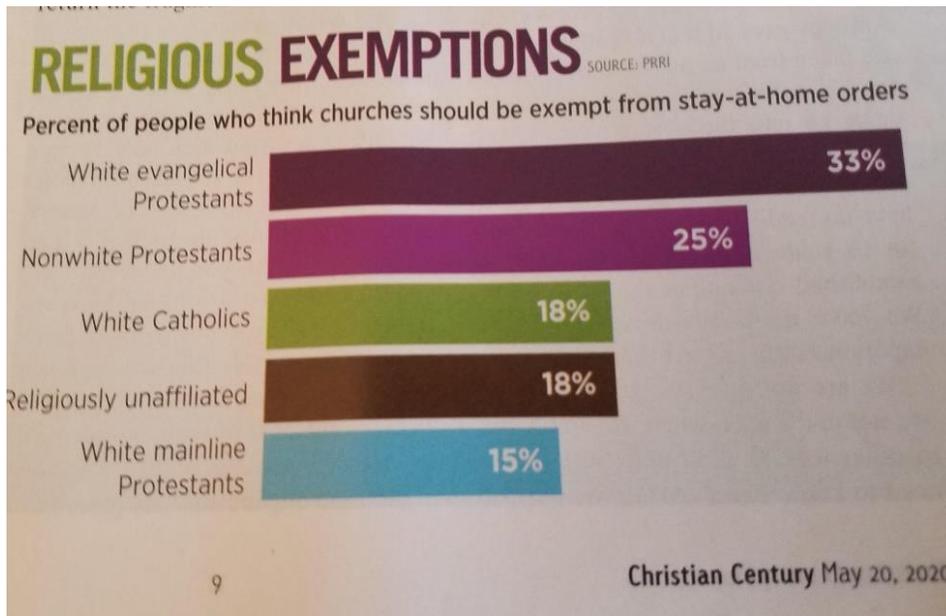
Approval of Minutes The March Council meeting minutes were approved as sent by email.

Pastor's Report

- Pastor Peggy conducted from home numerous phone call visitations.
- She participated in several Zoom meetings: ELCA, Oregon Synod, Gloria Dei committee meetings, Bible studies, and counseling session.
- She celebrates new blinds that were installed in the office (thanks to Angela McAlister and Don Blom); the narthex tile floors are beautifully refinished (thanks to Angela); new LED lights have been added to the fellowship hall and to the office; and lots of people are making calls!
- She mentioned the Oregon Synod request for at least one person from Gloria Dei be a contact person for their synod Disaster Response Team. We discussed this briefly and **decided that our office receive notifications; Violet will be our contact person and distribute any information received.**
- Pastor Peggy mentioned the need for 2 or 3 people to attend the Oregon synod's Zoom meeting, "Courageous Stewardship" to be held this coming Saturday, April 25 at 10:00 a.m. **Kathy Jacobson and Lynn Danner volunteered. Pastor Peggy will register them and herself to be attendees.**
- Pastor Peggy recommended Gloria Dei keep our building closed through May 31. Curtis made that a motion; Kathy Jacobson seconded the motion; **the motion passed**

Around the Oregon Synod

On Monday, a Baker County Circuit Court judge blocked Gov. Kate Brown's stay-at-home orders, calling them "null and void" because they infringe on personal religious freedom and the ability of citizens to earn a living.



But before sundown, the Oregon Supreme Court stayed the ruling, allowing the governor's executive orders to remain in effect until it gets a chance to hear the argument. The Governor's Office issued a statement Tuesday saying the executive orders have prevented more than 70,000 infections across the state and averted about 1,500 hospitalizations.

Although many of the state's counties have moved on to Phase I of the governor's reopening protocols, Clackamas, Marion, Multnomah, Polk and Washington counties remain bound by the earlier orders.

Source: The Columbia Press

A message from Bishop Laurie

Dear friends in Christ,

As June approaches, it is time for us to check-in about in-person gatherings. The messages coming from our elected leaders can be contradictory and confusing.

- **Governor Brown** has allowed 31 of the 33 Oregon counties (not the Portland-metro area) to begin phase 1, which allows for groups of up to 25 people to gather with social distancing.
- **President Trump** has deemed churches and other houses of worship "essential" and has called on governors across the country to allow these places of worship to reopen.
- **Public health experts** warn us that the nature of the virus has not changed; it is still highly contagious and our communities are still vulnerable.

More troubling news comes from those churches that have already attempted to reopen.

- [At least 107 people became infected](#) after attending or coming into contact with someone who attended a service at a German baptist church, despite church officials insisting that social distancing and hygiene guidelines were upheld during the service.
- [A Baptist church in Georgia](#) stopped in-person services two weeks after reopening as several families came down with coronavirus. Again, the church states that all modes of social distancing were practiced and followed by the families attending.
- [A Catholic church in Texas](#) also closed after it was discovered multiple members had contracted the novel coronavirus and one leader had died. Again, the parish had followed cleaning, sanitation and social distancing guidelines prescribed by State health officials.



Here in Oregon, we are blessed with the opportunity to learn from these churches experience and protect our ministers, lay leaders, members and communities from risk. **In-person, indoor gatherings of people from different households are high risk** and they are a risk we do not have to take. We know we are essential, but it is not essential to gather in person at this time.

Our priority is protecting the well-being, health and safety of ALL members of the Oregon Synod: congregants and staff. Therefore, **we advise that church buildings remain closed to all but essential staff for as long as in-person, indoor gatherings remain high risk.**

Thank you all for taking care of each other during these troubling times. Let us continue to pray for those who are sick, those who have died, and for the good health and welfare of all members of our communities.

In Christ,

Laurie L Caesar

Someone put it
very well...

We isolate now
so that when we
gather again...
no one is
missing.