

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church Weekly E-Newsletter for May 8, 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/>

Missed a Worship Service?

If you'd like to catch up, or are trying to recall a particular hymn or sermon, Richard Whitwer has been downloading the audio version of the services and has saved many from the past. Since he has been doing this for his mother, he'd be willing to make copies for others in the congregation, (as long as it's not hundreds!) Give Violet a call at in the church office to get the request to Richard. (541) 267-2347.



We don't encourage you to do so, but **if you need to come to the church building for any reason**, you'll need to sign in. This will help Gloria Dei comply with the state's new regulation regarding contact tracing.

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.



Around the Church



News & Events

All worship services and meetings held via Zoom

Women's Text Study

Friday, May 15 – 8:30 am

Adult Sunday School

Sunday, May 17 – 9:00 am

Sunday Worship service

Sunday, May 17 – 10 am

Women's Text Study

Friday, May 22 – 8:30 am

Adult Sunday School

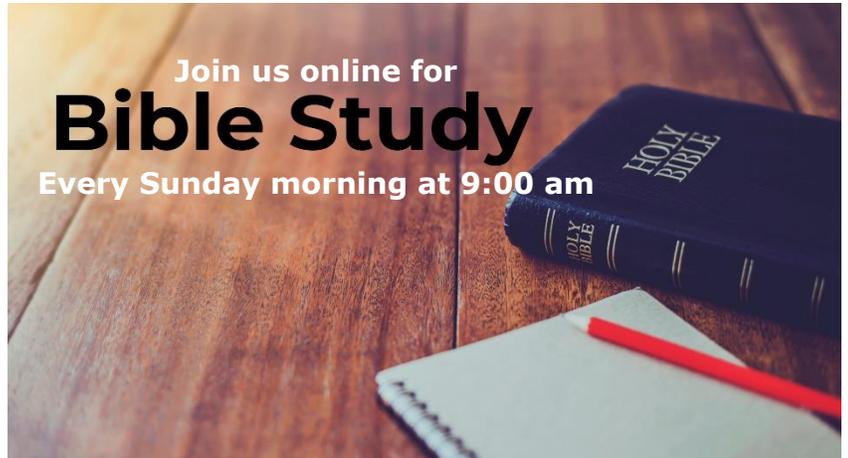
Sunday, May 24 – 9:00 am

Sunday Worship service

Sunday, May 24 – 10 am

Church Council

Thursday, May 28 – 6:00 pm



Join us online for
Bible Study
Every Sunday morning at 9:00 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



Your Love always
finds a way, O God.

Alleluia!



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.

Prayer Beads Restocked:

The basket of Prayer/Comfort Beads in the church office has been restocked with choices for men, women and children. As the pandemic goes on, I have felt impressed by the Holy Spirit to send sets to people serving as essential workers and also people in enhanced lockdowns who might need a lift. (Such as my mother in law in Eugene).

I renewed a friendship with a friend from college who is a respiratory therapist in Colorado. A set went to a cousin whose husband is a Police Officer in Washington. As this ministry winds down, I still have several sets available. I invite you to act on any Holy Spirit impression you get to share these with others. Each set is prayed over before bagging, that it find the owner for which it was made! Simply make an appointment with Violet to look through the basket and take as many as you wish.

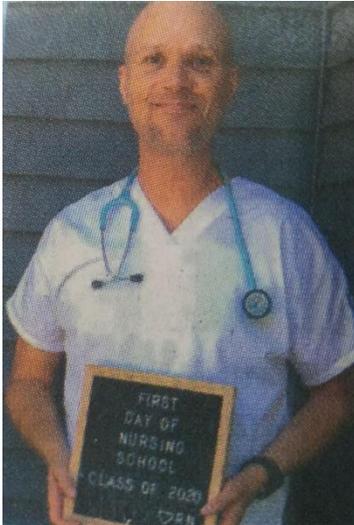
Blessings, Kathy Whitwer



Around the Church

SWOCC Graduates say...

Our own Keith Duerfeldt-Selanoff's interview with the campus newspaper



Keith on his first day of nursing school

What's it been like to train in this current environment?

It's definitely different! I've been fortunate to do my nursing practicum in hospice. Social distancing has had an impact on patient contact. I so look forward to the time when things go back to face-to-face interaction.

Why did you choose nursing?

I've always enjoyed taking care of the sick. Providing my patients with compassionate and competent care, or even a distraction from their current situation, is what I's all about for me. I started as a CAN when I was 17. Finishing nursing school is a lifelong dream for me.

What do you want to do in nursing, longer term?

My goal is to become a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner. I'm taking upper division classes at Eastern Oregon University, and will start classes for the bachelor's of Science in nursing at OHSU in the fall.

How would you encourage future students?

Nursing school is tough, but you can do it. Don't give up. You will get through and the faculty in the nursing program will support you 100%. It is a lot of work, but it goes by in a flash and before you know it, you're done. Find a study group that works well for you. That is a big help. www.socc.edu

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.
Sandi Carter's brother, Michael, Prayers of thanksgiving that he is Home recuperating with his family and is cancer-free!

Delores Danville – Member of Faith Lutheran, at OHSU, infection

Kay Hamilton –health issues

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

Hugh Tyler- Cancer

Maxine Wood –End of life issues

Pastor Craig Johnson's wife, Karen, a nurse, who tested positive for the COVID-19 virus this week. (Christ Lutheran, Canby)

Leslie Green – mourning the death of her husband, Buddy, on May 3.

Transition Team News

Transition Time Progress Chart

- ✓ Say "Farewell" to Pastor Jon Strasman
- ✓ Contract with Oregon Synod and Interim Pastor
- ✓ Welcome Interim Pastor Peggy Yingst
- ✓ Breathe, pray, and celebrate the holidays
- ✓ Time for prayer and healing
- ✓ Select and commission Transition Team
- ✓ Transition Team begins work – organization and orientation
- Transition Team plans ways to collect information, ideas, visions
- Transition Team analyzes information
- If necessary, Transition Team gathers more information
- Transition Team may make recommendations to Council
- Transition Team uses the information and assessment to draft the first version of the Ministry Site Profile
- The Council reviews and completes the Ministry Site Profile
- The Ministry Site Profile is presented to the congregation for review
- The Ministry Site Profile is submitted to the Synod office
- Call Committee is formed
- Call Committee meets with Pastor Peggy for orientation
- Call Committee meets with member(s) of the Transition Team to review the Ministry Site Profile in detail
- Call Committee prepares information packet about the congregation and the community; plans the interview process
- Call Committee receives candidates' names and profiles
- Call Committee reviews information, interviews candidates, checks references
- If necessary, Call Committee receives more names and profiles; repeats the process
- Call Committee recommends a candidate to the Council
- Candidate visits the congregation
- Terms of call are negotiated
- The Council calls a Congregational Meeting to vote on the candidate
- A call is extended and accepted
- Say "Farewell" to Pastor Peggy Yingst
- Plan installation of your new pastor with the Synod office

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 Hodgins, (266-0816),
Connie Monahan, (217-1866),
Annette Reher, (266-0730), and
Pr. Peggy Yingst, (802-579-1948)

Around the Oregon Synod

Friends and siblings in Christ,

As we wrap our minds around the reality that we will not be joining our voices in song or our bodies in large worship groups anytime soon, we have much to lament. I'm grieving being with others, enfleshed, as you likely are. And yet, in the "wasteland" there are streams of new possibilities arising. As I ponder, I've come to realize what a privilege it is to be the generation that dreams new things for ekklesia, Christ's church - new things full of surprising connections, grace, and courageous love!

Please watch the short video below and help us begin to imagine what God is doing even in pandemic times. Behold!

Blessed to be on the Way with you, *Bishop Laurie*



Behold, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.

Isaiah 43



The Oregon Synod welcomes Christie Bernklau Halvor, who will be the new Oregon Synod S.A.M. (Synod Authorized Ministry) and Lay Education Coordinator.

Prior to joining the Synod staff, Christie worked as an Associate Professor of Social Work and Practicum Program Director at Concordia University in Portland. She holds a Ph.D. in Social Work and Social Welfare from Portland State University, and is also a Licensed Massage Therapist. She also happens to be Paul and Marilyn Halvor's daughter-in-law.

As of May 18, Christie can be reached at learningtogether@oregonsynod.org and at (503) 200-7862.

A Note from Bishop Laurie

May 8, 2020

Dear Ones,

How shall we sing the LORD's song in a strange land? (Psalm 137) asked the people exiled in Babylon. The practices and comfort of what they had known through worshiping at the temple in Jerusalem were not available to them in that foreign land. In that time of exile, they were challenged by prophets and reformed as God's people. When they returned to Jerusalem, the temple they longed to gather in had to be rebuilt.

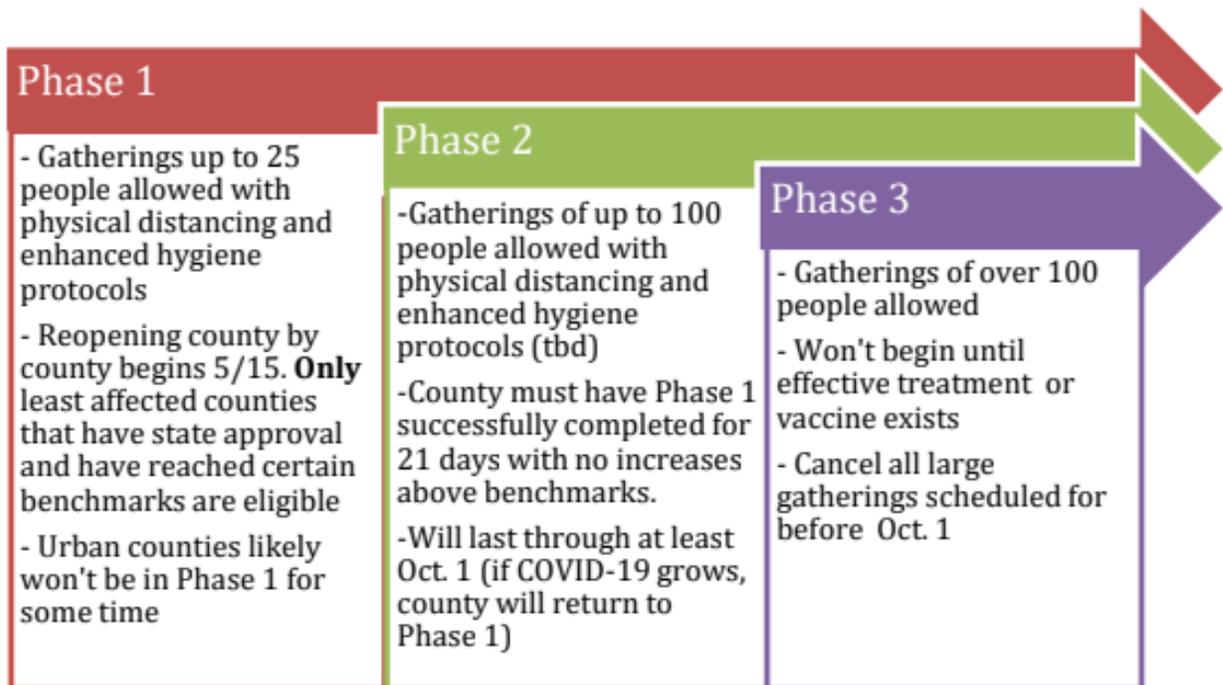
Are we not in a similar time? We will be in this pandemic for at least another year if not longer. Pandemics usually have 2-3 waves; it is predicted that we will see another wave of infection this fall. Oregonians have

done a good job of flattening the curve of infection, but we are still amid a global pandemic. We will likely see restrictions on daily life lifted then re-imposed.

This is a long email. Please read carefully and retain this email for future reference. The State of Oregon and your local municipality have the responsibility to protect public health. The guidelines of the CDC, the state and your local municipality should be strictly followed. When we all follow these guidelines, we all benefit. This is our labor of love. We are not going back to “normal” any time soon. We are, unfortunately, not in a blizzard, from which we will emerge soon and relatively unchanged, but in an ice age which will invite us to adapt in significant and meaningful ways.

Yesterday, Governor Brown released her Reopening Oregon Plan. Reopening will happen by region/county. Until your county has been approved to begin Phase 1, the stay at home order remains in effect. Even if your county is one of the few to reopen this month, all Oregon Synod congregations should still adhere to not meeting at least until June 1, for most congregations it will be longer.

Here is a summary of the Governor’s key points:



As we prepare for gathering in limited numbers as a congregation, please follow these recommendations:

1. **Continue to abstain from holding ALL events in your church building until at least June** (including services and small group gatherings). Instead, use the month of May to plan. Use the attached Reopening Planning Guide with your pastor, lay leaders, or entire congregation.
2. **No large gatherings will be allowed until a treatment for COVID-19 is found.** That will take some time. Oregon's governor has canceled all large sports, theater and worship gatherings through September, at least. Stay up to date with information from the CDC, OHA and your bishop's office.
3. **Connect with your insurance provider to understand their recommendations for your intended use of your buildings.** We know now of multiple congregations outside of the synod who have been dropped by their insurance for meeting against orders/in this time.
4. **Plan to continue offering worship, prayer and small group gatherings online and through phone, email and mail for the foreseeable future.** Feedback here in the bishop's office on your faithfulness and creativity has been unbelievable! This is a time to expand the connectedness of the congregation through phone conversations, prayer partners, Zoom studies, Zoom coffee hours, etc. It is rare that everyone in a congregation is online. We are called to be creative and serve all, of course!

5. **The CDC is recommending that those over 65 and those who have underlying health conditions continue to stay home and stay safe.** Though painful, even after limits on small groups are lifted by region and groups of 25 are allowed to meet here in Oregon, those over 65, obese or otherwise dealing with illness should stay home. ***This begs the question: should we be meeting in-person when members of our congregations are unable to attend without risking their health?***
6. **If you choose to open your building as restrictions loosen, you should appoint a team** who will be responsible for interpreting CDC, state and local guidelines for the use and maintenance of the building and those who gather in it. Have a person keep track of who is in and out of the building in case someone does develop COVID-19 and others need to be informed of that exposure.
7. **Action plans for sanitizing every space (and handle, knob, railings, etc.) after each use of your building should be developed and followed.** Ensure your janitor or volunteers have the needed supplies to thoroughly sanitize everything a person has touched or breathed on. Follow the CDC guidelines.
8. **For services:**
 - Have a plan in place to ensure attendance will be within allowed limits
 - People should enter and exit the building at different times and by different doorways
 - Worship leaders should not greet people at the door
 - Hand sanitizer or hand washing stands should be at the door
 - Bulletins should be placed in the rows prior to worship and anything else normally in the row removed (hymnals, bibles, etc.).
 - Use projection or have everything in a single bulletin that is discarded after one use
 - Provide disposable masks for those who've forgotten or be ready to ask that person to leave (a masked usher should be appointed to watch over this)
9. **Nursery care, potlucks and coffee hour shall not be** offered while we are required to be masked and practice physical distancing.
10. **Singing is not advised at this time:** a singer can spray up to twenty-seven feet. Consider using instrumental music, humming, or a soloist standing far from those gathered.
11. **Signage, Facebook, websites** should offer consistent information for those interested in worship, interested in hands-on service, what groups a person can join, financial support, prayer support.
12. **Give serious consideration to the viral load you are exposing your pastor, worship leaders and janitor to** by having multiple services (with cleaning between services). Your pastor and worship leaders do not have to agree to accept that risk.

Remember that while all things may be lawful for you, not all things are beneficial. Nor do all things build up the body of Christ. (1 Corinthians 6:12, 10:23—Paul says this twice so it must be important.) We also remember that the neighbor always comes first and that what we do to the least of these who are members of our family [in Christ], we do to Christ. (Mt 25:40)

Our labor of love continues. May all that we say and do reflect the light and love of Jesus Christ.



Bishop Laurie Larson Caesar

