

On Eagle's Wings



St. John's Monthly Newsletter – July/August 2020

Growth

Pastor's Paragraphs

I feel like we're living in endlessly serious times: infectious disease control, racism issues, economic stress, political elections, and more. As a contrast for this newsletter I thought I'd put together a list of witty or funny quotes from Martin Luther. Creating such a list is easy – just search for Martin Luther quotes online!

Not being born yesterday, I'm fully aware that not everything you find online is reliable! (I love those memes with Ben Franklin or Abraham Lincoln and the quote, "Don't believe everything you read on the internet just because there's a picture with a quote on it.") So, with a list brilliant quotes attributed to Luther in hand, I set out to verify them.

Some were very significant such as, "God does not need your good works, but your neighbor does." But did Luther actually say that? I have the 54 volume set of *Luther's Works* which include every statement he made that can be verified. While that quote sounds very much like Luther, it is not his.

Many love this quote of Luther, "Whoever drinks beer, he is quick to sleep; whoever sleeps long does not sin; whoever does not sin enters heaven! Thus, let us drink beer!" Yes, while this may be the beloved creed of many a college frat boy, you don't have to be a Luther scholar to know that he never made any such statement! While Luther did have his opinions about beer, he was generally pretty temperate.

It is not just the internet that is filled with spurious quotes from Luther. Most Lutheran seminaries have a statue of him. The stone bases of these statues usually have quotes. It was a standing joke at Gettysburg that only one of the several quotes was actually verifiable!

This isn't unique to Luther. Most famous people are cited as saying all sorts of things they never did. That's not necessarily bad, especially if the quote is truly in that person's style. Indeed a quote or a pithy saying can be a great boost when you're having a tough day. But in general life does not come down to short witticisms. Similarly, headlines of news articles do not capture the depth of what really happened. In tough times life can be a slow slog. Getting through life is not about finding a bunch of shortcuts. Most of Martin Luther's best

thoughts cannot be simplified to a simple saying. Life takes time. It takes diligence. It takes work.

I will conclude with one verifiable saying of Luther's that does fit this time and every time:

"I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess." (Letter to Justus Jonas the Elder, June 29, 1530)

Blessings,
Pastor Jon

Sunday School Project

When the quarantine began in March our Sunday School staff talked about what we could do to keep our Sunday School active. We checked with kids and parents and asked if they would like to make fleece blankets to be donated to the Linus project at local hospitals. Everyone (including parents) were in favor of this ministry. Our families included Bullwinkles, Irelands, Sacketts, Stroups, Youngs, Whites, and Wymans. One of the younger kids asked if we had any more fleece, could he make some more. I think he did another 5 or so.

The Shulers prepared the fleece, cutting to size, printing directions and labeling the blankets. They then socially distanced delivering them (including a bag of goodies to make their life a bit sweeter)! Then our kids and their parents got busy. No surprise! When we were "let out" again, they returned over 30 blankets to Shulers, had donuts and juice outside, played corn hole and took a golf cart ride. It was so good to spend time together

Everytime we thought of them cutting the ties, tying them, and thinking of the kids who could use them, our hearts filled with love; they were surely doing God's work with their hands.

The blankets will be on display in the sanctuary when we gather again as our church family.

-Nancy Shuler

Growth (Cont.)

Christ in Our Home Daily Devotionals Available

The *Christ in Our Home* daily devotional booklets for July-September have arrived. They are in their usual spot on the table in the old narthex. Pick up a copy sometime you are in the area. If you need the code for the building key please get in touch with Pastor Jon

Men's Breakfast – 1st Wednesdays

The Men's Breakfast will continue this summer but drop to meeting just the first Wednesday of the month. If you would like to join in please ask Pastor Jon for the Zoom link.

Confirmation Date

Six of our youth have completed the confirmation program and are anxiously awaiting a confirmation celebration as we do every year. There are several ideas and plans are in the works. Look for an email announcement when they've come together.

Worship

Sunday Worship – 2 Congregations

Beginning June 7 the congregation of St. John's, Lyons began joining the Zoom worship that St. John's, Victor had already been doing. Lyons' pastor came to the end of his call. Since no one was having in-person worship it made sense for the two congregations to share. As long as neither congregation has in-person worship it makes sense to continue this arrangement. However, July and August will bring changes. So...

Lyons - Sunday worship continues at 10:30 via Zoom with Victor. In July the Lyons council will explore options for worship in the future.

Victor – 8:30 worship has resumed using the outdoor chapel. Weekly communion will begin July 5. Communion will use wafers and pre-filled glasses. They will be placed on plates and on a table as you approach the outdoor chapel. Please pick up as many plates as you need for your household and keep them with you until communion.

10:30 – Worship continues via Zoom through the month of July. Internet upgrades are scheduled to be completed

by the end of July. This will allow services to be led from the sanctuary. In-person worship will resume in the sanctuary August 2. Communion will not be distributed for the first couple weeks. Even after in-person worship resumes the services will still include an online part by Zoom.

Connecting to Worship with Zoom

If you have a computer and internet connection:

The link to the service is emailed out. For security reasons it is no longer directly available on the website.

If you cannot connect with a computer:

You can still hear and participate in the service with any phone. Use the most appropriate phone number below and enter the meeting number when you are asked.

Dial by your location

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 834 9025 1842

Password: 778805



July & August Bible Readings for Worship

In July and August we're continuing our summer long series of the kings of Israel. Studying the kings shows human leadership at its best and at its worst. Whether good or bad, God continues to hold true to the promises made to people.

July 5 – King David's Ambitions; 2 Samuel 2:1-17

July 12 – King David's Family Problems; 2 Samuel 15:1-8

July 19 – Solomon's Rise to Power; 1 Kings 2:13-25

July 26 – Solomon's Reign; 1 Kings 3:1-15

August 2 – Jeroboam/Rehoboam; 1 Kings 11:41-12:19

August 9 – Israel's Kings to 722 BC; 1 Kings 15:24-35

August 16 – Bad Kings; 2 Kings 8:16-27

August 23 – King Hezekiah; 2 Kings 18, 19

August 30 – King Josiah; 2 Kings 22

Worship (Cont.)

Altar Candles "on Tour"

During the Easter season our baptismal font toured from household to household. Each week a different family poured water into the font at the beginning of worship and led a thanksgiving for baptism.

For the summer Pentecost season the altar candles will be going on tour. Each week a different family will light the candles in their home and lead a prayer that is printed in the bulletin. Even when (if) we are able to return to in-person worship sometime this summer we will certainly be maintaining our Zoom worship services. The candles will continue on tour symbolizing our dispersed congregation.

Service



Red Cross Premier Partner

Good news, St. John's! We have been named a **Premier Partner** of the American Red Cross Blood Services. Since April 7th we have hosted 4 blood drives where 117 units of blood were collected. Due to issues around the Covid19 virus as well as stifling heat in June, some of our neighboring organizations felt unable to open their facilities to the public. All appropriate precautions were taken and we were able to accommodate the drives. It was a wonderful opportunity to serve our community. Contact Mary Zuege if you'd like more information.



- Thank you to Bettina Kalish for counting the offerings and other income each week.
- Thank you to Bill and Katy Stimmel and Joe Pow for mailing the sermon and bulletins each week to members who are not able to join in worship by Zoom.
- Thank you to everyone who has helped with music for our Zoom worship services. Thank you also to Karen Spawton for organizing it.

- Thank you to everyone who helped mow the church lawn in June.
- Thank you to everyone who has helped with readings in our worship services and who has hosted the altar candles.
- Thank you to Jim Spawton and Gary Boisseau for helping provide greater security for our Zoom worship services.
- Thank you to John CiPollina for working to have a new internet and phone provider for the church.
- Thank you to Bruce Stevenson for installing a new garbage disposal.
- Thank you to Mary Zuege for volunteering to serve as hostess for all the blood drives.
- Thank you to Tricia Kolczynski for organizing the slide show tribute to our students who are graduating.



Food Cupboard - New Location

Hello churches!

I know some of you have heard, but we're trying to keep everyone informed about Food Cupboard news, so..

We found a new home for the Food Cupboard and signed a lease last week!! We will be sharing a building with Mozzeroni's at 4358 Anthony Drive in Victor! We will have 3 500 square foot at this location!

We will be moving in the second week in July. We will keep everyone posted when this location will open to our clients. We will continue the drive-in distribution at least until the end of summer, then will reevaluate with FoodLink's guidance.

We'll be hosting open houses by appointment (to keep gatherings small) at the end of July and the beginning of August. We'd love to have you come see the new space!!

Another way to help the Food Cupboard: The First Presbyterian Church of Victor is coordinating a summer meal kit program for families served by the Victor school district school lunch program. On Tuesdays this summer, the Food Cupboard van will be parked behind the Presbyterian Church from 8 am to 7 pm to collect items that will be needed for these meal kits. The van can also be a collection spot for fresh produce from home gardeners (the produce will be given out at the Food Cupboard on Wednesdays).

Service (Cont.)



- The Rev. Matthew Nickoloff and the South Wedge Mission in Rochester.
- Rev. Deborah and Joe Troester and their missionary work in Zambia.
- Gary Myers who is being treated for multiple myeloma. He is doing well and is responding to the treatments
- Linda Ellis who continues to monitor her cancer issues.
- Bob Stroup, Rob Stroup's dad, who has been suffering from dementia and other health problems.
- Knute Halvorson, who is living in Aria Nursing Home in Penfield.
- Kevin Sackett as he receives chemotherapy and has the treatments adjusted.
- The family and friends of Dick Henderson as they mourn his death.

Nuts and Bolts

June Council Highlights

Church council held its regular monthly meeting on June 15. Major topics were about preparing the congregation for a return to in-person worship. These include:

- reviewing insurance guidelines
- expectations of worshippers
- worship practices
- building upgrades
- policies for outside groups using the building

Preventing the Spread of Disease

-Building Improvements-

- Ultraviolet lights have been installed in the HVAC system of the sanctuary. This will prevent it from spreading infectious diseases.
- Hand sanitizer and dispensers are placed in various areas of the building.

Finances

YTD Income \$91,053.80
YTD Expenses \$84,713.47
Difference \$6,340.33

Thank you to everyone who is keeping up with their offerings!

Hand Sanitizer Needed

When you're out shopping please consider picking up an extra container of hand sanitizer for the church. Our normal supplier of office products no longer has any available. We're trying to have the church well stocked for when we return to using the building more. Drop off your purchases sometime you're driving by the building. If you need access and don't know the code please contact Pastor Jon.



June Bible Trivia Questions

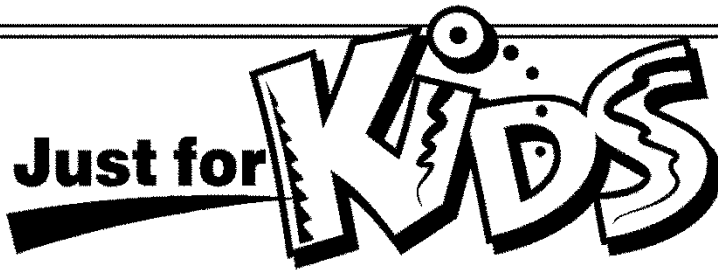
Hint: All the answers can be found in the chapters we'll be reading in worship during June.

1. Who was the first king of Israel? Answer: Saul (1 Samuel 9)
2. What prophet anointed the first two kings of Israel? Answer: Samuel (1 Samuel 9, 16)
3. What was King David's hometown? Answer: Bethlehem (1 Samuel 16)
4. What Philistine "giant" did David take down with his slingshot? Answer: Goliath (1 Samuel 17)

July/August Bible Trivia Questions

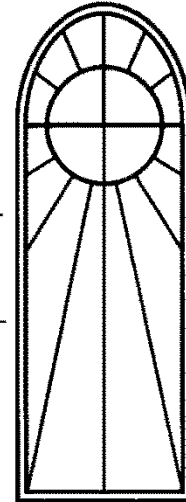
Hint: All the answers can be found in the chapters we'll be reading in worship during July and August.

1. Who was the evil wife of King Ahab?
2. What southern king "found" a book of the law and led a major reform movement?
3. What southern king effectively ward off a major attack by the Assyrians without fighting at all?
4. What does Solomon ask for when God offers him the chance to have anything he wants?



Find the words that fit these definitions. You may use a dictionary or check in a church bulletin or hymnal. Write the letters from the words on the lines below.

Warm feeling in your heart
33 34 35 36


$$\begin{array}{r} \underline{5} \quad \underline{4} \quad \underline{33} \quad \underline{2} \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{r} \underline{1} \quad \underline{10} \quad \underline{3} \end{array} .'$$

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St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

**Grace for Everyone
-Always-**

*We are a community of faith
committed to living and sharing the love of God.*

St. John's Lutheran Church

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