

CENTRAL LUTHERAN MESSENGER

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May Messenger Deadline April 27th, 2020
Please e-mail your articles to Central Lutheran Church
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Dear Friends in Christ,

So much has changed in the past month! The world has completely shifted as we all deal with pandemic that is Covid 19. At this writing, the governor has said that we should all stay at home for at least 2 weeks. I pray all of you are staying safe and healthy. Hopefully, most of us are merely inconvenienced by this virus. We are giving up meeting in person and staying home for now to help flatten the curve and show our love for our neighbors by maintaining our physical distance from each other.

We are living in unusual times and sailing uncharted waters. One of my favorite Bible stories is from the eighth chapter of Luke:

22 One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side of the lake.' So they put out, ²³and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A gale swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. ²⁴They went to him and woke him up, shouting, 'Master, Master, we are perishing!' And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm. ²⁵He said to them, 'Where is your faith?' They were afraid and amazed, and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him?'

In times like these we can feel like we are in the middle of a terrible storm. The winds of constant change are blowing us around and the rain Like the disciples, we have great fear that our boat is sinking and it seems like Jesus is napping through the whole thing. We don't know how long this isolation will last and how things will be when it's over. The good news is we can wake Jesus. He not only doesn't mind, he welcomes it whenever we cry out to him in prayer. He is the Word who created the winds and seas and all that exists. He is the One who will calm our troubled souls as we continue to sail the boat in this storm.

May the peace of the One who calmed the storm for the disciples, calm the storms in your life, and in our world.

Blessings, Pastor Carolyn

Covid 19 FAQs for Central Lutheran Church

How is the church dealing with day to day issues?

Our staff are working from home. Pastor Carolyn checks the building daily, listens to the phone messages, and picks up the mail.

How are we worshipping when we are staying at home?

We are live-streaming worship on Facebook on Sundays at 9 am and posting to the church website as soon as it's available.

How do I watch the live stream?

If you use Facebook, just "like and follow" our church page and it will show up on your newsfeed. Find us by searching for @centrallutheranyakima. If you don't have Facebook, you can still watch on Facebook. Go to [CLCYakima.org](https://www.clcyakima.org) for instructions. Bulletins will be posted before the service every week on the website.

What if I don't use the internet?

Please leave a voice message on the office phone at 575-6490 and we are happy to mail you a printed copy of the bulletin and sermon on Mondays.

What about Holy Week and Easter?

We expect we will not be able to gather in person for these services. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil services will be live-streamed at 7 pm those evenings. We'll live stream Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday at 9 am.

What about our offerings?

You can mail checks to the office (please, don't mail cash) or give online by going to <https://www.clcyakima.org/give>.

What about pastoral care?

Pastor Carolyn is available by phone at any time. Please understand that she can't make in person visits during this time. She and Vicar Ethan are phoning our shut-ins regularly. If you need anything, please contact us.

What about Sunday school and confirmation and youth group?

Adult Sunday school classes are posted on our website. Confirmation students are being homeschooled. Felicity is sending materials to parents for our children and finding creative ways to engage our youth group.

What about funerals?

Sadly, any funerals must be postponed until we can gather in person.



Vicar Message

April 2020

Vicar Ethan Bergman

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life. Ephesians 2: 8-10

Peace to you! We are in the midst of a pandemic that has everyone wondering about the future in many regards. This pandemic has taken many of us out of a routine life to a disrupted life. We pray that the loss of life caused by COVID-19 is minimal and that we soon are able adapt to a new normal that provides comfort.

At a time like we are experiencing, there are many among us who are isolated and need special care and attention. I suggest that you reach out each day to someone who will appreciate a chance to connect with you, either with a phone call, or an email, a text, or a visit if that is appropriate. **This is a good time to remind each other that, for by grace you and I have been saved through faith, and this is not your doing or my doing; it is a gift of God!**

Having just experienced Lent, we are now entering Holy Week and Easter. This Holy Week and Easter will be different than many of us have ever experienced partly because we are implementing social distancing. This is really physical Distancing. We can still provide social and spiritual support to one another during these stressful times.

Distancing is a necessary part of keeping the spread of COVID-19 to a minimum. Yet physical distancing may also prove isolating, disrupting, and disturbing because we may be physically separated from our friends, families and loved ones. We hope for a normalcy soon.

This is a good time to look to the future at Central Lutheran Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), and we might as well include the United States, and the world!

From a spiritual perspective, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is also looking at a new normal. In a publication titled, “*Called Forward, Together in Christ: ELCA Future Directions for 2025*,” the ELCA leadership sets strategic direction for the Church. We are able to access the entire document at:

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Future_Directions_Paper_Called_Forward_Together_in_Christ.pdf?_ga=2.57743146.1657651168.1583772360-1556432790.1557526700

ELCA Strategic Directions 2025 tells the story of the church we are becoming – a church that is confident about who we are in Christ and what God is calling us to do.

The directions are presented in three parts: The ELCA – Who we are; What unites us as church; and, Our goals and priorities.

I thought I would summarize this document over the next three months. First, let's consider *Who We Are?*

Who We Are?

We are the Church in Yakima.

We are what God has made us – people whom God has created by grace to live in union with Jesus Christ and has prepared to live faithful, fruitful lives by the power of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 2:8-10).

In Jesus Christ, God has reconciled us to God and to each other. As we gather around word and sacraments, this life in Christ is what defines, shapes and guides us as a community of faith, the church.

By God's grace we can and do live confidently and generously in this community of faith and in service of others, amid the mysteries and paradoxes of this life in Christ – including our human limitations and failings, and the ambiguities, uncertainties and suffering that we experience.

We Are Central Lutheran Church

We are a church that walks by faith, trusting God's promise in the gospel and knowing that we exist by and for the proclamation of this gospel word. We proclaim Jesus Christ crucified and raised from the dead for the life of the world.

God's word, specifically God's promise in Jesus Christ, creates this liberated, confident and generous faith. God gives the Holy Spirit who uses gospel proclamation – in preaching and sacraments, in forgiveness and in healing conversations – to create and sustain this faith. As a Lutheran church, we give central place to this gospel message in our ministry.

We Are Church Together

Just as God has joined us to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in baptism, we are also joined to others, not only in the ELCA and The Lutheran World Federation (LWF), but in all communities of Christian faith around the world. We rest assured that in Christ none of us lives in isolation from others. Jesus is our peace and has broken down the walls that divide us – walls of judgment, hatred, condemnation and violence – and has made us into one, new human community (Ephesians 2:14-15).

This spiritual communion depends only on God's mercy that comes to us in the word and sacraments. That alone is enough for unity, and so we yearn for this communion with all Christians at the Lord's table.

In all our relationships at Central Lutheran Church and in the larger Church, the ELCA serves reconciliation and healing with other Christians, while repentantly acknowledging its failings and wrongs, trusting in God's forgiving mercy.

We Are Church for the Sake of the World

Christ has freed us from sin and death, even from ourselves, so that we can live as ministers of reconciliation in loving and generous service of our neighbors (2 Corinthians 5:17-18). In Jesus Christ, all of life – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

We bear witness to the love of God in Jesus Christ at Central Lutheran Church through our dialogue and collaboration with ecumenical partners and with other faiths. In all these ministries, God's generosity flows through us into the life of the world.

So as we live in this disrupted time of physical distancing with the threat of the coronavirus looming, praying for normalcy to return, it is good for you and I to remember that we are Church and that it is through God's grace that we are saved through faith! Peace be with you!

Blessings to you as we consider the future of our Church together!

Vicar Ethan

Central Lutheran Church Adult Sunday School Calendar May, 2020 on CLCYakima.org

May 3: *Food and Faith: A Theology of Eating*, by Norman Wirzba

May 10: *The Theology of Food*, by Angel Mendez-Montoya

May 17: *The Theology of Food*, by Angel Mendez-Montoya

May 24: Memorial Day Weekend No Class

May 31: *Living Bread*, by Thomas Merton

June 7: *Living Bread*, by Thomas Merton

Theological PSA

"Our nature ... [is] so
deeply curved in on itself
that it not only bends the best gifts of God
towards itself and enjoys them ... [but also]
curvedly, and viciously seeks all things, even God,
for its own sake." -Martin Luther

FLATTEN THE CURVE!

Do not hoard, but share.
Do not turn on strangers, but tend their needs.
Do not rely on your own understanding, but listen to experts.
Do not care for your own needs at the expense of the vulnerable.
If you are strong, advocate for the weak.
Remember the poor, the imprisoned, the sick,
the widow and orphan.
And in all things,
trust in God who never acts curvedly,
but in love extends divine compassion toward a hurting world.

Anyone who ordered Girl Scout cookies at church will be receiving them late. Orders have been delayed at least 2 weeks. As soon as we receive the cookies, either Melissa or I will be in touch to arrange deliveries or safe pickup (drive through our parking lot). No worries... we will get your cookies to you!

Thanks

Denise Svendsen

On The Corner Program Director

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Otcyakima.org





Ash Wednesday
was well attended
February 26th, 2020.

Noon service had
32 people and 7:00
pm service had 69.

Harper Northcott was
pleased to be ashes!

Ongoing Prayer Concerns

Kyle Dixon
Pastor Mike Scheid
Rev Charles Ewan
Dr. Richard Ehlers
David Desmarais
Jessica Rodden
Gerald Ramsey
Jeff Chapman
Larry Douglas
Bob Dreisbach
Fred Halverson
Steve Berreman
Ruth Borders
Gary Pierone



Ongoing Prayer For Shut Ins

Phyllis Gillihan (*Ponderosa*)
Mary Frances Jones (*Cedar Hills*)
Joanne Puyear (*Arbor House*)
Art Ries (*Livingcare*)
Toni Perschke (*Avamere*)
Walter & Edith Mabry (*Yakima*)
Betty Douglas (*Moxee*)
Mae Hansel (*Yakima*)
Elaine Bueling (*Fieldstone Memory Care*)
Mel Carlson (*Fieldstone Memory Care*)

ATTENDANCE

March 2020 Worship at 9:00 am on Sundays

3/01/2020 Attendance: 104 + Live Stream: 81

3/08/2020 Attendance: 77 + Live Stream: 207

3/15/2020 Attendance: 50 + Live Stream: 315

3/22/2020 Live Stream: 216

3/29/2020 Live Stream:

Wednesdays Lenten Worship

3/04/2020 Attendance: 35





Stewardship Corner

Spring is just around the corner.

Consider adding nutrients to your plants and gardens by various easy and less expensive methods of composting.

A message from the Stewardship Committee:

First of all, many thanks to all of you who have been so generous in the past. We are grateful that so many of you use online giving and we can depend on your contributions even when we aren't able to gather in person. This is the right time...in fact... there is never a bad time to remind our membership that salaries, maintenance, utilities, insurance, taxes, etc go on even when we are not attending church services in the sanctuary or chapel. Tithing is the Biblical goal for each of us, but more importantly it's good for every member of CLC to periodically review his/her financial situation and from that evaluation contribute as much as possible. We realize that all of us are not in a position to increase our contributions and do not want anyone to feel guilty if they cannot. In this time of national emergency our faith will carry us through and CLC will be enabled by generous cash contributions to carry out the mission God has for us. We would like to humbly make the suggestion that when you are evaluating your contribution...First...Figure out what 10% would be if you tithed to the church. After that...look at the expenditures in your budget and see where you might be able to cut and save, and place that money in the Tithe column. You might be surprised as to how close you can get to a tithe. One member was recently able to double her contribution to Central and 2 others have starting online giving. Thank you and God bless you all!



A heart full of gratitude that Dave is no longer suffering and can rest in the arms of his Savior, Jesus. Prayers of thankfulness for my wonderful church family - for your prayers, cards and concern. Also Kyle & Brian, Lea & Family - Jeanne Dillahunt

We would like to thank every one for their prayers. Our Mother died March 10, 2020 in her home. She was very peaceful and without pain. We love every one at the church for it is a wonderful church family as Jeanne wrote.

- Ria Desmarais and Lea Ramirez



Art work the Youth did during Winter Retreat 2020.

Hanging on the stairway from the Narthex to the Fellowship Hall.

