

CENTRAL LUTHERAN MESSENGER

1604 W. Yakima Avenue,
Yakima, WA 98902 (509) 575-6490
office@clcyakima.org · www.clcyakima.org
The Rev. Dr. Carolyn Hellerich, Pastor
Ethan Bergman, Vicar

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June Messenger Deadline May 26th, 2020
Please e-mail your articles to Central Lutheran Church
Lea.Ramirez@clcyakima.org



Dear Friends in Christ,

Our last 'in person' worship service was March 15th. By the time you see this on May 1st, that will be 45 days of staying at home. I read today that the word 'quarantine' comes from the Italian 'quaranta,' meaning 'forty.' The period of forty days was chosen to quarantine not for medical reasons but for scriptural ones. As anyone in my Bible study or confirmation classes could tell you, numbers in the Bible usually have symbolic, rather than literal meanings. In the Bible, "forty" means a very, very long time. It rained and poured on Noah's ark for forty days. The Israelites wandered in the desert for forty years. Jesus was in the wilderness for forty days. Forty means a very, very long time. And, if you remember the stories of Noah and the Israelites, God's people got restless during those times. Only Jesus was able to resist temptation, so don't be hard on yourselves for being restless. Just remember Jesus is with you.

We are celebrating the season of Easter in a most unusual way for us. We stayed home. We worshiped at home instead of joining our friends in loud choruses of "Alleluias." Our grief is real. We have missed out on a time of great celebration with our church family. I think there's a different way to look at our Easter season this year. I think we observed Easter in a Biblical way, just as the first disciples did. They were locked in their home. They were fearful of the authorities who could put them to death. We are staying at home, fearful of a virus that can claim lives, too. We stay away from others, wash our hands, wear masks in public - all out of love for our neighbors, not just because they might be contagious, but because we might be sick and not know it.

I saw a cartoon the other day. Satan was bragging that he closed all the churches. God laughed and said, "That's okay, I opened one in every home." It is likely we will still be staying at home for Pentecost. When we do come back together, it will be in stages, with small groups, and many precautions. Until then, we continue to worship Jesus who promises he is always with us, no matter where we are. We proclaim Christ crucified, the God who overcame death itself, and promises to be with us always.

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Carolyn



Vicar Message

May 2020

Vicar Ethan Bergman

Psalm 27: 1

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

In the midst of the Covid 19 pandemic, it is reassuring to hear that God is our light and salvation!

Although the past couple of months have been, in many ways, disruptive, we rest assured that God is with us in these trying times and offers us the light that we need to get through these confusing times when we can't see the end on our own.

To keep a little bit of sanity, to exercise, and to meditate, I've been riding my bike in Iron Horse State Park that runs through Ellensburg. Iron Horse State Park is the old Milwaukee Road Railway that has been converted into a State Park. So it is a very long State Park!

I can maintain physical distancing while getting some exercise, meditating and contemplating, and having the opportunity to see some great countryside.

If I go far enough west, I run into two tunnels. The first tunnel is easy to get through because you can see the light at the end of the tunnel to guide my bike and I to the end of the passageway.

The second tunnel, though, is a different story. I ride part way in and I am surrounded by total darkness. No light is visible in any direction. It really is debilitating and almost incapacitating to have no vision. That is when I think about the light that Jesus provides in our lives.

Even in the midst of disruption and despair, grief and sorrow, Jesus is there to help us through those times. Jesus is there to help us through these times! To help us get to a new normal in our lives. Jesus offers Peace to you and to me during disrupted times in our lives.

The new normal for each of us and for us as the Body of Christ most likely will be different than it was before the pandemic.

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.

In April we considered Who we are. Now let's consider *What Unites us as a Church*.

What unites us as a church?

Our shared purpose together in Jesus Christ: Most importantly, we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly and serve joyfully.

Our vision We envision a world experiencing the difference God's grace and love in Christ makes for all people and creation.

Our values Our values are grounded in faith, in our biblical and Lutheran confessional sources and our love of God and neighbor. They speak to the way this church lives and practices our faith, and they will guide how we journey forward in Christ as church together.

We feel strongly that we are reconciled to God by God's forgiving mercy. Forgiveness and reconciliation flow from what God has made us to be in Jesus Christ and what God is doing with us in the world.

Each person is created in God's image. We respect this God-given right to dignity and, inspired by the life of Jesus, show love and compassion for all people.

As Christ's church, we value the richness of God's creation and offer a radical welcome to all people, appreciating our common humanity and our differences.

We are a church that does not view diversity as a barrier to unity. We recognize and will challenge dynamics of power and privilege that create barriers to participation and equity in this church and society – for women, people of color, minority ethnic groups, people with disabilities, people who are marginalized or living in poverty, and the LGBTQ community.

Because we trust in God's promise and understand faith to be a living, daring confidence in God's grace, we are emboldened to embrace learning and change in our spiritual and institutional journey as church. This means we are open to new ways and willing to take risks to discover God's plan for this church.

Our most important ministries

In today's competitive society that creates unrealistic expectations of finding worth through human accomplishments, the most important ministries of this church in the years ahead are:

Worship, word and sacraments: Rooted in evangelical proclamation and sacramental celebration, we are a church gathered around worship experiences that are meaningful, authentic and responsive to community contexts.

Faith formation and discipleship: Honoring our rich traditions, we are a church grounded in the Lutheran confessions inspiring biblical and theological literacy, gospel fluency and daily vocation and ministry through shared experience and life-long learning.

Leadership development: We are a church strongly committed to formation, education and continuing development and care of lay leaders and rostered ministers.

Children, youth and young adults: We are a church dedicated to ministries that engage and affirm children, youth and young adults as an integral part of this church, now and for the future.

Ministries addressing human suffering and injustice:
In communities and around the world we are an informed church, actively utilizing our many gifts in witness and service in response to human need in our communities, countries and 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 Christ offers the light and peace that we depend on. And that we are Church and that it is through God's grace that we are saved through faith!

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

Vicar Ethan

Worship at Home Schedule

May 2020

Live Stream from Facebook at 9:00 am

Available at [CLCYakima.org](https://www.clcyakima.org) at 11:00 am

May 3 Fourth Sunday of Easter Christ the Good Shepherd

May 10 Fifth Sunday of Easter Christ the Way, Truth, Life

May 17 Sixth Sunday of Easter Christ our Advocate

Thursday, May 21 Ascension of our Lord 6:30 pm livestream

May 24 Seventh Sunday of Easter Christ's prayer for the disciples

May 31 Day of Pentecost The Spirit is poured out

You may want to decorate your worship space at home with candles and a table cloth. The color of the day is white during the Easter season, symbolic of the risen Christ. On Pentecost, the color is red for the fire of the Holy Spirit.



Council Corner

April 22, 2020

Greetings and Pax Domini as my dad would always say; *May the Peace of the Lord be with you!*

Hoping this finds you and your loved ones well and happy during these challenging virus times.

Since we had no council action items on the agenda for our April 20 meeting, the executive committee decided to cancel our meeting. Pastor reported the staff is doing well while working at home. A brief sampling of the work: Pastor and Vicar Ethan are busy with providing on-line worship opportunities and maintaining phone contact with shut-ins. Felicity, Denise and Lea are working diligently on projects and checking on the building on a regular basis. Felicity has been connecting with the youth through post cards, Sunday school lessons, Holy Week packages, lesson planning and the like. Denise has learned of opportunities through OSPI to continue with meals for OTC kids and is very busy with her staff in safely preparing and delivering meals. Lea continues to be all things wonderful in keeping the office business and church communication active and current. Unfortunately, our custodian Gerry is not able to work from home and yet was being salary supported so the executive committee decided to lay him off during the virus shut down. He understood completely and appreciated the support and consideration of the church. He wrote of his appreciation and opportunities provided by the church in his 15 months of service as our custodian. We certainly appreciated having Gerry on board and will revisit custodial services once we gain access to our building.

I've been contacted by members of how much they miss our church musicians and the gift of music they provide. Considering that, I contacted Tim Schulz and he has agreed to play some piano hymns for us that will be available on our website as video presentation. I can personally see and hear in my mind's eye his postlude medleys that keep me in the pews if not a front row seat until the end! Looking forward to this and thanks, Tim!

I always worry about leaving someone out of the thanks and appreciation in communications like this. So thanks to all who are working hard in sharing the love of Christ in these times. Speaking of working hard and diligently, I'm reminded of our treasure. I've asked Tim Franks to share some of the good news he recently shared with the council. His comments will be shared also in this Messenger.

Finally, if you're still with me, thanks for reading to the end. Regarding to survey response, I mentioned that the next step will be for a council session to be scheduled for discussion when safe and healthy to do so. Hopefully we can have that discussion next council meeting scheduled for May 18. We then fully intend to engage the congregation in a manner that leads to voices being heard and visioning forward as God's hands in this place,

Pax Domini, Stephen Merz Council President



Courtesy of the Rev. Carolyn Hellerich

The Rev. Carolyn Hellerich and her husband, Deacon Dave Hellerich, record a Palm Sunday service from inside their home on an iPhone. Central Lutheran Church in Yakima, like most other religious organizations, has canceled all in-person services to try to minimize the spread of the coronavirus.

Join the 75,000 Face Mask Challenge!

Attention all quilters and sewers! Lutheran World Relief is asking us to help our neighbors in developing countries stay safe from corona virus. You can do this from home and it's a great way to use up scraps from your fabric stash. Go to <https://lwr.org/masks#8456> for all the information you need.



Congregation members,

The last time you heard from me I was sharing some bleak information about our financial picture. I asked you to prayerfully consider increase your giving.

During this COVID-19 period of time, I would like to announce that I have some good news to report. March was a very good month in the sense that we brought in \$27K more than we spent.

As much as this is GREAT news, it is also a little misleading. Some of the funds are individuals/families giving their annual amount early and some of the money is from the

Endowment fund covering future expenses early. A big blessing here is that some of the funds received were by folks increasing their giving. We are not out of the woods

as we still have the dreaded summer months ahead which have historically been “lower giving months”, but for the time being, God has blessed us and is answering our prayers.

	<u>Feb-20</u>	<u>YTD 2020</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
INCOME	56,472	117,127	86,435
EXPENSES	29,353	96,178	98,206
INCOME Less			
Exp.	27,119	20,949	-11,771

Tim Franks, Treasurer

Treasurer's Report

Financial results thru

March 31, 2020

Offerings/income			Expenses by major category	
	March	Year to date	March	Year to date
General fund	40,558.00	97,324.58	Salaries & benefits	22,000.33
Building Usage	2,781.00	6,297.00	Youth & Family	(343.01)
other income		37.91	Worship	354.35
Transfers			Hospitality	-
from endowment fund	13,007.02	13,467.59	Stewardship/Church in Society	80.00
from money market	125.83		Property	5,777.15
Gertie Hein - Visitation	-	-	Office	1,483.87
Total	56,471.85	117,127.08	Total	29,352.69

March 2020	operating income, net of transfers	\$ 13,986.31
	net income	\$ 27,119.16
Year to date	operating income, net of transfers	\$ 7,481.02
	net income	\$ 20,948.61

Monthly results:

Central Lutheran's offering came in \$14,527 more than budget for the month.

Operational expenses were \$3,383 less than budget for the month.

This results in operating income, net of transfers of \$13,986 for the month of March.

Including transfers, we have net income of \$27,119 for the month of March.

Year to Date:

Total offerings/revenues to date are -\$30,692 less than budgeted amount as of the end of the month.

Total operating expenses to date are running \$2,028 under budget.

Net of transfers, year to date we are in the black by \$7,481

Including transfers, year to date we are in the black by \$20,949

Balance Sheet items:

Beginning of year cash balance	34,148.34
Activity thru March 2020	20,948.61
Payment of benevolence accrued in prior year	
reclassification between dedicated and undedicated	(23,946.79)
Current balance - undedicated bank account assets	\$ 31,150.16

2019 Year to date benevolence		Amount due	Paid	Still due
Synod	8%	7,785.97	2,726.84	7,678.89
Local	2%	1,946.49	450.00	1,496.49
		9,732.46	3,176.84	9,175.38



Church celebrates Easter remotely, offers message of hope

by Angela Kerndl New Break/KIMA
Sunday, April 12th 2020

YAKIMA -- With churches everywhere closed because of the coronavirus, one local church is bringing a message of hope during this Easter Sunday like no other.

Central Lutheran Church's pastor celebrated the resurrection of Jesus not with crowded pews but with a livestreamed service from her Yakima home.

One thing Reverend Carolyn Hellerich says she misses most about seeing her congregation in person each week is not getting to sing with them. She says normally, the building is busy with people in and out all the time.

She says they are learning new ways of staying connected, like with Facebook, making [phone calls](#), and even mailing letters to check in on each other.

Hellerich preached that what we're going through is temporary.

"Easter was never meant to be normal. The disciples were hiding on that first Easter Sunday. They were fearful," says Hellerich. "And the big message I think from this is the message is of the angel this morning - do not be afraid."

She says they are fortunate that no one in their congregation has tested positive for COVID-19, but they're praying for those family members who have.

"Things are going to change. Things are going to be different. The world is not going to be the same once we're on the other side of this, but that's okay because Jesus has gone ahead of us and Jesus has always gone ahead of us," says Hellerich. "We can't ever go anywhere that Christ has not been, and I think that is a huge message of hope for us this Easter Sunday that God is always there no matter where we are. "

She encourages everyone to stay home and follow those guidelines from [health](#) officials.

"We are very strong in our beliefs of the importance of education. We find no conflict with science so we do believe that it is important to follow the directives, and listen to the scientists because science is one of God's gifts to us in creation," says Hellerich.

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 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.



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*)

Gail Hill (*Home with Hospice*)



April 2020 Worship at 9:00 am on Sundays

4/05/2020 Palm Sunday Live Stream: 312

4/09/2020 Maundy Thursday Live Stream: 223

4/10/2020 Good Friday Live Steam: 184

4/11/2020 Easter Vigil Live Stream: 153

4/12/2020 Easter Live Stream: 263

4/19/2020 Live Stream: 202

4/26/2020 Live Stream: 142



THANK YOU.....to everyone who helped and provided food for the luncheon after Dave Dillahunts memorial service. Your willingness is appreciated more than you will ever know. Central Lutheran Funeral Committee



La Casa Hogar connects and educates Latina families, to transform lives and our Yakima Valley.

April 10, 2020

Central Lutheran Church
1604 W Yakima Ave
Yakima, WA 98902

Dear Friends,

¡Gracias! Thank You!

Amigos,
Thank you so much
for your unwavering
support.
-Enn

"I had the opportunity to assist in *intercambio* class. I am so proud to be able to help others understand and practice my language. At the same time, I am also practicing my English and working on my confidence to speak more English." - Concepción Diaz

Your investment makes the difference in your Yakima Valley. Because of you, families access the resources, education and community they seek to better themselves and our Valley.

Amount Donated as of March 31, 2020

- January: \$150.00
- February: \$150.00
- March: \$150.00
- Total: 450.00**

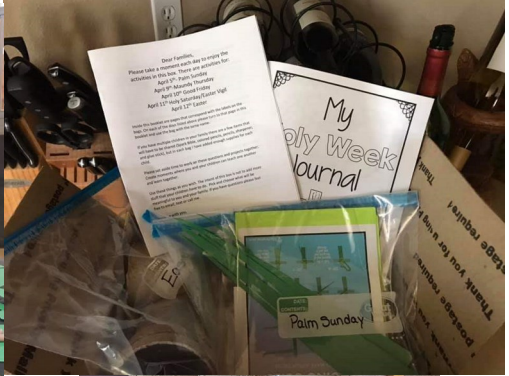
From all of us at La Casa Hogar, THANK YOU for your generous investment.

Atentamente,

Enriqueta Flores
Enriqueta Flores
Development & Events Manager
enriqueta@lacasahogar.org



**YOUTH AND FAMILY DIRECTOR, FELICITY PITTMAN,
DELIVERED BOXES TO THE YOUTH WITH
ACTIVITIES. HELPS THE YOUTH STAY BUSY
DURING THIS HARD TIME.**





On the Corner Update:

OTC has funding to feed our OTC kids meals while we they are out of school. This is so important because most of our kids come from families that live at or below the poverty level. We distributed our first meals on April 20th. We are preparing 250 meals per week.

Ways you can help us with this special project is to provide plastic grocery bags and any easy to fix meals or canned goods, that we can hand out to some of our most needy families along with our OTC meals. You can drop these items either on my front porch (4706 W Chestnut Ave) or bring to the lower church lot on Sunday (10 to 1) or Monday mornings (9 to noon). **Please don't enter the church. Just knock on the door.**

HOW
YOU
CAN
HELP

Camp Hope Needs:

I am still delivering meals to Camp Hope. Due to COVID19, I purchased most of our meal last month (chicken, potato and macaroni salads, rolls) and used water and pudding that we had on hand. Devi provided the pop and some extra water. Contact Denise Svendsen @509-949-8580

Current Needs: Serving 80 people

Large Sturdy Paper Plates

Napkins

Forks and Spoons

Water

Pop

Prepackaged Pudding (Costco 32 per pack)

Prepackaged Cookies or Rice Krispie Treats

A vibrant bouquet of flowers, including large red chrysanthemums and pink roses, is set against a dark background. A large, semi-transparent white diamond shape is centered over the bouquet. Inside the diamond, the text "HAPPY Mother's DAY!" is displayed. "HAPPY" and "DAY!" are in a simple, black, sans-serif font, while "Mother's" is written in a flowing, red cursive script.

HAPPY
Mother's
DAY!