

Mission Connection

MISSION CONNECTION

JUNE 2021

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you." 1 Peter 5:6-7

Pastor's Message

As we approach the summer months with its plentitude of opportunities of things to do and places to go, I think it appropriate to reflect on the 3rd Commandment: Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. The following reprint of the devotion from October 6, 2020, from Sola Publishing puts things in good perspective!

From the Confessions: *The Large Catechism,*
The Ten Commandments

In order to grasp a simple Christian meaning of what God requires in this commandment, note that we keep holy days not for the sake of intelligent and scholarly Christians. They have no need of them. We observe them, firstly, for bodily reasons and needs. Nature teaches and obliges the working people, who have been attending to their work and trades the week long, should rest for a day and be refreshed.

Take a break. Find respite from the hubbub every day, if you can. It is a great way to honor the First Commandment, to put the Lord first in your day. But certainly take a break on the Lord's Day. Get yourself to worship. Do not go to the lake to rest. That is not enough rest; furthermore, it puts recreation above God. You are not a nature worshiper.

Do not go off to a child's sporting event instead of worship; that puts your child before God. Yet, if you do find yourself away from where you are normally in the Lord's house where others hear the Word and worship together, then find a way to worship anyway. Find a way to hear the Word of the Lord. In doing so, you sanctify to yourself the day of rest.



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Stanza of the Month

Stanza of the Month: *Salvation Unto Us Has Come* (LBW 297, verse 5)

[5] *All blessing, honor, thanks and praise*¹
*To Father, Son, and Spirit*²,
The God who saved us by his grace
All glory to his merit.
O triune God in heav'n above
You have revealed your saving love;
*Your blessed name*² *we hallow*

With its emphasis on salvation by grace through faith alone apart from works described in the first four verses, this is as firmly Lutheran a hymn as you can find! But the last verse is much more trans-denominationally orthodox in its praise of the Holy Trinity. Echoing the liturgy of the mass taken from the book of Revelation¹, this last verse also picks up on the unique name by which Christians have come to know God. It is the name given to us to use by Christ Jesus himself as reported in the 28th chapter of Matthew's gospel: "*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name² of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*".

Normally, any of those used independently would be *titles* like king, reverend, doctor, etc. But collectively they become The Name! Not only does this name identify the one true God whom we worship, but it also declares by whose authority we are called to proclaim forgiveness and salvation to the world.








June Worship Assistant Assignments

Sunday, June 6	Sunday, June 13	Sunday, June 20	Sunday, June 27
Lector: Connie Puffett	Lector: Chris Schlee	Lector: Annie Puffett	Lector: Pete Wood
Cleaning: Ginny & Jerry Hawkins	Cleaning: Ginny & Jerry Hawkins	Cleaning: Ginny & Jerry Hawkins	Cleaning: Ginny & Jerry Hawkins



Over the Coffee



<p>RFB Presents COFFEE WITH JESUS</p> <p>God is Love</p> 	 <p>"God is Love," right, Jesus?</p>	 <p>Before you go down that road, Kevin, "love" doesn't mean anything goes, it's all good, look-the-other-way permissiveness.</p>	 <p>Wow, Jesus. You almost make God sound like, <i>I don't know</i>, some kind of...</p>	 <p>Loving father, Kevin?</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">© Radio Free Babylon</p>
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Council Meeting Minutes

April Council Notes

Mission in Christ

April 20, 2021

On Tuesday, April 20, 2021 Mission in Christ Church Council met at 6PM.

Those in attendance were Pastor, Michelle Borrett, Deron Hakert, Deb Ommen, David Gould, Terri Gould, and Bill Green.

Council President, Bill Green, called meeting to order and read a devotional prayer entitled, "Prayer for Unity" by Max Lucado.

Minutes from previous meeting were read and approved.

Michelle presented the Treasurers report. Offering for the month of March totaled \$16,188.00. Leaving a balance in the general fund of \$15,990. It was noted that a Thrivent deposit of \$610 was received and placed in the general fund for now. At the next meeting there will be a discussion concerning use and placement of this money.

Treasurer's report was approved.

Worship Committee had not met recently...no report.

Pastor's Report: 6 phone visits. Mass averages are as follows. Viewed on line 42.5 In-person attendance 30.2. Combined 71.2. Matins average 31.6. Compline average 34.9.

Pastor informed the council of an article he has written and be published in the Clayton County Register. He will be attending Iowa Mission District Council on April 24 and attend NALC Disaster Response Workshop in Rochester on the 25th. Pastor will be on vacation May 13 – 18. Discussion of May Council meeting date discussed. (There was no May Council meeting.) Discussion will take place with the Worship/Music committee concerning coverage for Pastor while on vacation.



Council Meeting Minutes

April Council Notes (cont.)

Under Old Business Michelle gave the Council additional information on Operation Christmas Child. Additional discussion will occur in the future on how Mission in Christ can participate in this program.

Nepotism policy tabled.

Communion for sick and shut-ins discussed. Pastor stated that two weeks following his second Covid vaccination he will be comfortable getting to those identified as wanting in-home communion.

There was discussion concerning some members who haven't attended recently and how we can follow up with them.

Quarterly budget reporting to the congregation. It was decided that to keep the congregation informed of church finances that a new report would be placed in the bulletin quarterly. The information would provide a comparison of quarterly giving to date as compared to quarterly budget projection. Actual quarterly expenses could also be given.

Under New Business

It was moved by Pastor and seconded by Bill to donate the quarterly benevolence to a congregation member in need. Motion passed unanimously.

Lawn mowing and parking lot maintenance will be taken care of by Jerry Hawkins and Bill Green.

Lawn seeding was taken care of by Jerry Hawkins.

It was moved by Pastor and seconded by Michelle to purchase cold pack for the entrance to the driveway. With a cap of \$200. Motion carried.

Church office hours were discussed...no action taken.

Unity Sunday service discussed. A date of May 2nd was set. Motion by Bill to proceed. Second by Michelle. Unanimous passage.

Contacting inactive members was discussed. Discussed that this could be done in coordination with Unity Sunday.

Other Business:

Zoom relicensing discussed and tabled.

Meeting adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting tentatively scheduled for May 18, 2021 6PM



Cloud of Witnesses



Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith. (Hebrews 12:1-2)

We believe that even those saints who have died are still alive in Christ Jesus. They are those giants of the faith upon whose shoulders we stand, and they, too, comprise this “great cloud”. Here is a list of “cloud members” who are remembered during the month of June:

- June 1: Justin, martyr at Rome, died ~165
- June 3: John XXIII, Bishop of Rome, died 1963; the Martyrs of Uganda, died 1886
- June 6: Boniface, Bishop of Mainz, missionary to Germany, martyr, died 754
- June 7: Seattle, chief of the Duwamish Confederacy, died 1866
- June 9: Columba, died 597; Aidan, died 651; Bede, died 735; renewers of the church
- June 11: Barnabas, Apostle
- June 14: Basil the Great, Bishop of Caesarea, died 379; Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa, died ~ 385; Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishop of Constantinople, died ~ 389; Macrina, teacher, died ~379
- June 21: Onesimos Nesib, translator, evangelist, died 1931
- June 24: John the Baptist
- June 25: Phillip Melanchthon, renewer of the church died 1560
- June 27: Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria, died 444
- June 28: Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, died ~ 202
- June 29: Peter and Paul, Apostles





Ask Pastor Gary!



Q Pr. Gary, why is the season of Pentecost sometimes referred to as “ordinary”?

A Good question! With the celebrations of the Day of Pentecost and Holy Trinity Sunday behind us, we begin the longest season of the Church year: the Sundays after Pentecost, or, simply Pentecost. With its green color symbolizing the growth of the church, the liturgical time after Pentecost is also known as “Ordinary Time”. This is due to the prolonged absence of any major festivals. It stretches from Holy Trinity Sunday all the way through the summer and fall months up to end of November when the year concludes with the festival of Christ the King. After that, the church year begins anew with the season of Advent.

There are some Christians who bounce from festival to festival – from one celebration peak to the next. Those who only know of God’s presence during the high-energy, extraordinary celebrations and festivals like Christmas and Easter may feel abandoned the rest of the year. While some may be bothered by the term “ordinary time”, I sort of like it. I’m an ordinary sort of guy, and “ordinary time” is where I live most of my life! it’s reassuring to know that our God is not constrained to special occasions but is Lord of all time, even the common, mundane days of ordinary time.

Community Meal and Food Pantry

The community meal May 19 served 80. There were 39 deliveries and 41 carry outs. No one came to dine in. June 16 will be the next community meal. It will be dine in, carry out or deliveries in Strawberry Point. It will be served from 5-6:30. If wanting a delivery call Kris at 563 19 5329 or Delaine at 563 920 2753 before 3pm on June 16. The menu is spaghetti with meat sauce, garlic bread sticks, lettuce and bars/cookies. Thank you to Tom and Susie Norberg for doing the meal deliveries. Thank you to Tony Harford, Wadena Locker, who is donating the meat for the June meal.

The food pantry served 17 households May 19. Thank you to Rodney Swales for delivering food pantry items to those that call. The next date is June 16. The pantry will be open from 3-6:30. Those that would like a delivery call Delaine at 563 020 2753 before 3pm on the pantry date. If someone needs assistance other times please call Delaine or the parish office at 563 933 6166.

Thank you to Country Rose for the donations of the macaroni salad and Watergate salad for the April Community Meal
Thank you.

Delaine





WORLD
MISSION
PRAYER
LEAGUE

TOGETHER IN CHRIST, PRAYER AND GLOBAL MISSION



Ekka Prayer Letter

Dear Brothers and Sisters at Mission in Christ, Strawberry Point, IA. Pandemic in India has impacted us personally. Nijhar's dad went to be with the Lord on May 5, 2021 as the Pandemic hit hard the Northern part of India in April and May. We thank you for your prayers and support for us during this very difficult time as many of you have sent cards and taken time to call us. **Jesus Christ who says, 'I am the resurrection and the life' (John 11:25)** has been our comfort and strength. Many of family members have recovered but many are still recovering.



While we grieve the loss of Nijhar's dad Bishop Dr. Nirmal Minz, we praise and thank God for using him mightily. He served his Risen Lord Jesus



The space above is left empty as we grieve the loss of over 25 family members, close friends and ministry partners and students including the Bishop of the Church in Ranchi to Covid in April and May 2021.



We praise and thank God in spite of many challenges students from two classes graduated in April (One class seen in the picture). Total 22 students graduated.



As you can imagine it would be very different for these new graduates to begin their ministry after their training. We are grateful that they are creative and committed to serving in the name of Jesus.



ASK FOR THE NATIONS - PRAYER TIME

First and Third Tuesday 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm

Please contact Nijhar at nnekka@wmpl.org for zoom invitation

Thank you sign by smiling and happy children is for all of you for your prayers and support as they received Sunday School bag with Sunday School materials. The students of the seminary led this effort.



Please pray for Anil who is working towards the establishment of the school for children.

Ask for Nations is a special online prayer time for the world. We would like to invite you to pray with us. We praise God that during this pandemic he has opened new ways to gather for prayer and fellowship. If you are able to join it would our great honor to welcome you.

Prayer Points:

- Praise and thank God for the graduates of the seminary.
- Praise and thank God for many people of have recovered from Covid 19 Infection.
- Praise and thank God for many of our graduates and students who are able to do their ministry through online platforms at the moment.
- Pray for India and pray for strength and comfort for many who have lost their loved ones during this pandemic.
- Pray for safety and protection for all WMPL global workers in different countries.
- Pray for wisdom, vision and courage for ministry of caring and counseling for young people in our online discipleship group.
- Pray for Nijhar's Mom who is recovering from Covid.
- Pray for us as a family as we grieve the loss of so many family members, friends and ministry partners.

We are grateful to you because we are strengthened by your prayers and financial support to proclaim Jesus to be the only hope for this life and the life to come during this pandemic. We remain together in Christ, Prayer and Global Mission.

Neeraj and Nijhar
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**We're on
Facebook!**

*Join us for Worship
9 AM Sundays
And online
through our
Facebook page or
Mission in Christ Website*

NALC Core Values

Christ-Centered

We confess the apostolic faith in Jesus Christ according to the Holy Scriptures. We affirm the authority of the Scriptures as the authoritative source and norm, "according to which all doctrines should and must be judged" (Formula of Concord). We accept the ecumenical creeds and the Lutheran Confessions as true witnesses to the Word of God.

Mission Driven

We believe that the mission of the Church is to preach the Gospel and to make disciples for Christ. We believe that making disciples—in our congregations, in our communities and nations, and around the world—must be a priority of the Church in the present age.

Traditionally-Grounded

We affirm the ecumenical creeds and the faithful witness of the Church across time and space. We endorse the form and practices of the universal Church that are consistent with Scripture, particularly the office of the ministry and the tradition of worship under Word and Sacrament. We seek dialogue and fellowship with other Lutheran churches and with faithful Christians of other confessions.

Congregationally-Focused

We strive to be a church body that is organized to facilitate the ministries of local congregations in a posture of servanthood and a spirit of partnership, through the provision of resources, connections and information.

