



# The Church Mouse

## Minister:

Rev. Dr. Larry G. Schneekloth

## Church Officers:

President: Nancy Griffin

Vice President and Financial Secretary: Jan Nicholas

Recording Secretary: Dona Gage

Treasurer: Phyllis King

Elders: Ida Dickerson, Richard Kuyper, Berdine McManus

Trustees: Ronald Baker, Jason Hill, Matt Phillips

## Inside this issue:

Growing In God's Word 2

Teen ZOOM Night 2

Picking Up Communion For ZOOM Worship 2

Fake News and How to Spot It 3

Prayer List 3

Women's Guild Fall 2021 Luncheon Status 3

Get Moving! 4

Book Corner 4

MLC's COVID-19 Protocols 5

MLC's COVID-19 Protocols, Cont'd. 6

## Spring-Summer Issue 2021

### From the Pastor's Desk

It's an eventful spring for the three main Abrahamic religions. As I write this, Western Christians have just marked the Fourth Sunday of Easter. For our Jewish friends, Passover began on March 27 and ended on the evening of April 4 (Easter Sunday in Western Christendom). Our Muslim friends are observing their solemn fast of Ramadan; as they begin the final ten days of that holy time in their religious calendar, Orthodox Christians will celebrate Easter on May 2.



This year with more and more of us being vaccinated, it's been possible for families to gather in small groups. The Schneekloths look forward to being able to hug our own kids and grandchildren in the next few months! But we haven't forgotten the nearly 570,000 people whose loved ones will never be able to embrace them again this side of Eternity.

Our ZOOM worship services have been a source of great joy and comfort to those of us who have been able to participate over the past six months. If you have the technology but haven't been joining us, please consider doing so until we can reopen MLC's doors.

The Church Council met on Sunday, April 18 to discuss reopening, among other matters. **At this time we are tentatively planning to return to in-person worship on May 30, the Sunday of The Holy Trinity, at 9 a.m., as long as COVID-19 numbers remain stable.** That is also Memorial Day weekend. If all goes to plan, I hope you'll begin your holiday celebration by participating in worship in Word and Sacrament.

In this newsletter you'll find MLC's COVID-19 protocols. It is important that we continue to care for one another by wearing our masks in church and physically distancing, even as the numbers of those being vaccinated continue to grow. Vaccinations are now available—and free—to everyone aged 16 and up. Please take advantage of this blessed gift of God to us through Science. Deo gratias! (Thanks be to God!)

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

(Photo, left to right: Sharron Davis, Assisting Minister; Pastor Larry; Joseph Wiltjer, Acolyte; Elizabeth Wiltjer, Acolyte; taken by Rosemary Schneekloth, Easter Sunday, 2019)

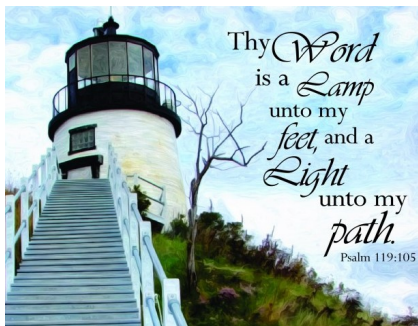
### Church Grounds Clean-Up

We'll gather on Saturday, May 8, 9:30 a.m., to clean up the church grounds. In case of inclement weather, the event will be postponed to Saturday, May 15, 9:30 a.m. Please wear a mask, especially if you have not yet been fully vaccinated.

Bring your yard work tools and pitch in to get our church home grounds ready for spring/summer 2021.



## Growing In the Word of God



There are a lot of study Bibles available, but they're not all created equal. A particular problem is the celebrity Word of Faith/Prosperity Theology/Health-and-Wealth "gospel" preachers' study Bibles that are based on the personal interpretations—and often concerning—teachings of individuals who have no theological or Biblical language training from a reputable seminary.

Two great, trustworthy study Bibles are *Lutheran Study Bible*, Augsburg Fortress, and *The New Oxford Annotated Bible*, Oxford University Press. They're both excellent, but for a Lutheran-Christian serious about their faith, *Lutheran Study Bible*, available at <https://www.augsburgfortress.org/>, is a must have. We gift the teen version to all of our third year confirmands. (If you order it from another source, be sure that you're

not purchasing *The Lutheran Study Bible* published by Concordia, which is not recommended.)

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## Teen ZOOM Night of Prayer, Praise, and Pizza

The teen years are not always easy, and this generation's teens face many challenges that your parents and grandparents didn't have to deal with.

MLC would like to have a Friday ZOOM night for our teen members and your friends. We'll have Beggar's Pizza and soda delivered to your home (it's on MLC, of course). In order to do that, we need to know if you're interested in participating and some information, such as your e-mail address, cell phone number, home address, and favorite pizza and drink(s).

Please make sure your parents are okay with this, too.

Please send that information to [MLCoffice@markhamlutheranchurch.org](mailto:MLCoffice@markhamlutheranchurch.org)!



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## Picking-Up Communion Elements for May ZOOM Worship

On Saturday, May 1, 2021, 12 p.m.—2 p.m., Pastor will be in front of the church building (facing 160th Street) handing out Communion elements for ZOOM worship services from May 2—May 23. Remember, these pre-filled packages have not been consecrated; if you don't intend to participate in online worship or you have enough left from a previous pick-up, you won't need them. Please make sure you are wearing a mask, regardless of your vaccination status.

**Whatever your heart clings  
to and confides in, that is  
really your God.**

Martin Luther

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**Sunday Worship**Worship with Holy Communion on  
ZOOM: April 25-May 23, 10 a.m.Worship with Holy Communion in  
person: 9 a.m. beginning May 30**First Communion  
Class**On ZOOM, TBA; if your baptized  
child has been inquiring about receiv-  
ing Holy Communion, please contact  
Pastor.**Confirmation**On ZOOM, TBA; if you're interested  
in your child beginning Confirmation,  
please contact Pastor.**Dates to Remember**National Day of Prayer: Thursday,  
May 6

Mother's Day: Sunday, May 9

Website: <http://www.markhamlutheranchurch.org/>E-mail: [MLCoffice@markhamlutheranchurch.org](mailto:MLCoffice@markhamlutheranchurch.org)*"Like" us on Facebook & follow us on Twitter @MarkhamLutheran***Fake News and How to Spot It**

As Christians, we have a responsibility to speak and share only the truth (including our social media posts). We're inundated with information—how can we discern objective facts from “alternative facts,” aka lies, especially the malicious fabrications and photoshopped pictures that make the rounds?

Here are some great ways to spot fake “news”:

- Consider the source; check the bias and/or credentials and reputation of the author/speaker/organization.
- Read between the lines: what's the source's agenda?
- What's the support? Were reputable sources used to gather information and statistics? Were the findings then skewed or misrepresented? Were quotes taken out of context? Was a picture mislabeled?
- Is it satire/comedy?
- Is the person, article, or meme promoting hatred of or violence toward a race or ethnicity, religion, LGBTQ+ people, women, a political party, or those who have a different viewpoint?
- Check your biases (if it's too good to be true... it usually is).
- Consult the experts: FactCheck.org, Snopes.com, the *Washington Post* Fact Checker and PolitiFact.com are all reputable sources.

*“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.” (Philippians 4:8, NIV)*

**Prayer List**

Please remember to look over the Prayer List on the website. If anyone needs to be added or removed, please let Pastor or Phyllis know. And please pray for the folks on the list, including our home bound members and friends. A card would be much appreciated, too. If you don't have a current address, check with Phyllis. Thanks.

**FALL 2021 LUNCHEON STATUS**

The Women's Guild have canceled the fall luncheon. They will discuss the possibility of holding a spring 2022 luncheon early in the new year. Thanks!



## Get Moving!

Many of us have been more sedentary in the past year or so than we normally are. Sitting more than 30-45 minutes at a time without any kind of movement/activity is bad for your health. Even if a person exercises several days a week, sitting for long periods the rest of the time undoes the benefits of an exercise regimen.

When sitting for several hours straight, whether working or relaxing, every 45 minutes or so be sure to stand up and stretch a bit, if possible. Whatever mobility or range of motion you have, use it! If you can, walk around the office, house, or garden, or around the block if stamina and time allow. Some companies will spring for a standing desk.

If you're unable to get to the gym or worried about working out in a public space with others even while wearing a mask and staying distanced, there are a lot of good exercise DVDs, a few exercise shows on TV, YouTube exercise channels, and Silver Sneakers is available online. (Many insurance plans cover Silver Sneakers for Seniors.)

It's very easy to sign up for Silver Sneakers' online classes from beginner to advanced, including aerobics, yoga, and Zumba Gold. They are also geared to many different fitness and physical ability levels. For instance, if it's difficult for you to stand for long periods or to get down on the floor, you can use a chair, even for yoga. The instructors understand that each of us has different physical abilities and give clear instructions for modifying moves. Check them out at: [https:// www.silversneakers.com](https://www.silversneakers.com).

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## Book Corner



### **Forging a Deeper Understanding of the Bible for Adults and Tweens/Teens:**

**Inspired: *Slaying Giants, Walking On Water, and Loving the Bible Again***—Rachel Held Evans

The Bible isn't a science text or an instruction manual, though many people try to treat it that way; yet, it is inspired. A proper understanding is life-changing.

### **Inspirational/Devotional:**

***Finding Home***—Julie K. Aageson

"...the underlying hope of each of the reflections in *Finding Home*: to discover and rediscover the presence of the Holy One as the defining lens through which we see God, ourselves and the world around us...."

### **Social Justice for Adults and Older Teens:**

***Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents***—Isabel Wilkerson

A book about power—who has it and who doesn't.

*"Our God invites ordinary people to usher in the reign of Christ. We were reborn for this in the baptismal waters. It's part of our spiritual DNA."* Rev. Angela T. Khabeb,

**"Our Journey To Higher Ground," Grounded In Grace,**

**Living Lutheran, April 2021**

## MLC's COVID-19 Protocols

**When reading over the following requirements, please remember that they have been put in place to keep you and your family safe. We love you and want you to be well. COVID-19 is a terrible disease, and even a mild case can leave a person with other health issues, such as heart disease and severe lung damage. IF YOU ARE ILL OR BELIEVE THAT YOU OR A FAMILY MEMBER MAY HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO COVID-19, PLEASE STAY HOME AND SELF-QUARANTINE FOR AT LEAST 14 DAYS.**

- 1) You are encouraged to arrive at church at least fifteen minutes before the service starts in order to have your temperature taken and get seated. (Note: the balcony is not disability friendly.)
- 2) Before exiting your car, if you haven't already put on your mask, please do so.
- 3) Only the front door (southeast side, under the canopy, facing 160th Street) will be unlocked. All entries and exits will take place there. Be prepared to walk around the church if you park in the west or north parking lot. Please leave the east side parking spaces for those who physically need to be closer to the entry.
- 4) Your temperature will be taken by an usher with a touchless thermometer at the front door; if it is 99.5 or higher, you will be asked to return home and monitor your health.
- 5) Everyone must wear a well-fitted mask while on church property; the only time masks will be lowered is to take Holy Communion. Please keep your mask over your nose and chin.
- 6) Physical distance of at least 6 feet must be maintained at all times, including in the pews occupied by non family members. There will be no handshaking or other physical contact. (We will miss passing the Peace, but we can still do so in our hearts.)
- 7) Service bulletins will be available, but you can also download the bulletin on your smart phone or tablet.
- 8) Please don't linger/gather to visit in the narthex upon arrival or departure.
- 9) Every other pew will be blocked off. Please do not remove the barricade.
- 10) Households will sit together; with a family/housemates of 5 or more, that will take up an entire pew.
- 11) We request that you continue to mail in or electronically transfer your offering; there will be a receptacle in the narthex to receive your mission offering (loose currency) and offering envelope, should you choose to use it. Please do not try to physically hand your offering, even in an envelope, to anyone.
- 12) Singing and talking at full volume tend to spread particles farther; therefore, the liturgy will usually be spoken. Please make any responses quietly, behind your mask. If the service includes a hymn, please sing very softly behind your mask; don't project your voice. Please do not lower your mask during a response or hymn.
- 13) The "cry room" will not be available. If your nursing infant needs to eat, go ahead and nurse in your pew; we have always welcomed and love our parents and children of all ages. If your baby or toddler becomes upset, don't panic. Pastor will talk louder.
- 14) The Sacristy is closed to everyone except Pastor, the altar guild chairperson, and the custodian and her assistant.
- 15) As you depart the service, you may recycle your service bulletin in the bin provided.
- 16) There will be no coffee hour and the lower level of the church will be closed, except in the event of an emergency.

(Continued on Page 6)





## MLC COVID-19 Protocols, cont'd.

- 17) One bathroom will be available on the east side of the narthex. The bathroom will be sanitized before each service, but we ask that each person who uses the bathroom wipe down the taps and sink, toilet seat, and handle before you use the facilities. That way you will know they have been sanitized for your use. (Wipes will be supplied.) If it is physically difficult for you to use the upstairs facility and you need a bathroom break, an usher will help you with the chairlift down to the social hall bathrooms, if needed.
- 18) Baptisms, confirmations, weddings, or other rites will be considered on a case by case basis at this time. We will reassess when Phase V reopening is underway.

### Holy Communion

*Holy Communion is very important at MLC. We are not yet able to resume our beloved tradition of coming up to the chancel and kneeling or standing at the altar rail in tables of twelve or so and receiving the bread in hand or mouth and drinking from the Chalice (Common Cup); however, we will still be together and partaking of the Body and Blood of our Lord each Sunday.*

- 1) Pastor will preside at the portable altar in the front of the Nave laid with pre-packaged, self-contained elements of wine/non-alcoholic wine and a small wafer from World Communion Cups.
- 2) You will be invited to come forward to help yourself to the consecrated bread and wine. Please process up the center aisle, keeping at least six feet between you and other communicants, and return to your pew via the appropriate side aisle.
- 3) Do not open your bread and wine and partake until everyone has gotten their bread and wine and returned to their seats. After everyone has been served, you may lower your mask and Pastor will say, "Take and eat the body of Christ, given for you." Cross yourself and eat. Then Pastor will say, "Take and drink the blood of Christ, shed for you." Open your wine, cross yourself, and drink. Raise your mask.
- 4) Please hold on to your empty plastic "glass" and the lift off seals. A plastic bin will be available in the narthex for you to drop them in on the way out.



*Remember, people 16 years old and up are now eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. New appointments may be made online at [vaccine.cookcountyil.gov](https://vaccine.cookcountyil.gov), or by calling (833) 308-1988, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday OR <https://willcountyhealth.org/>, (815) 774-7386, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. (If you're in another county, just google or call that county's health department. You can also register with Walgreens, Osco, and Meijer Pharmacies. A lot of places are now accepting walk-ins!*