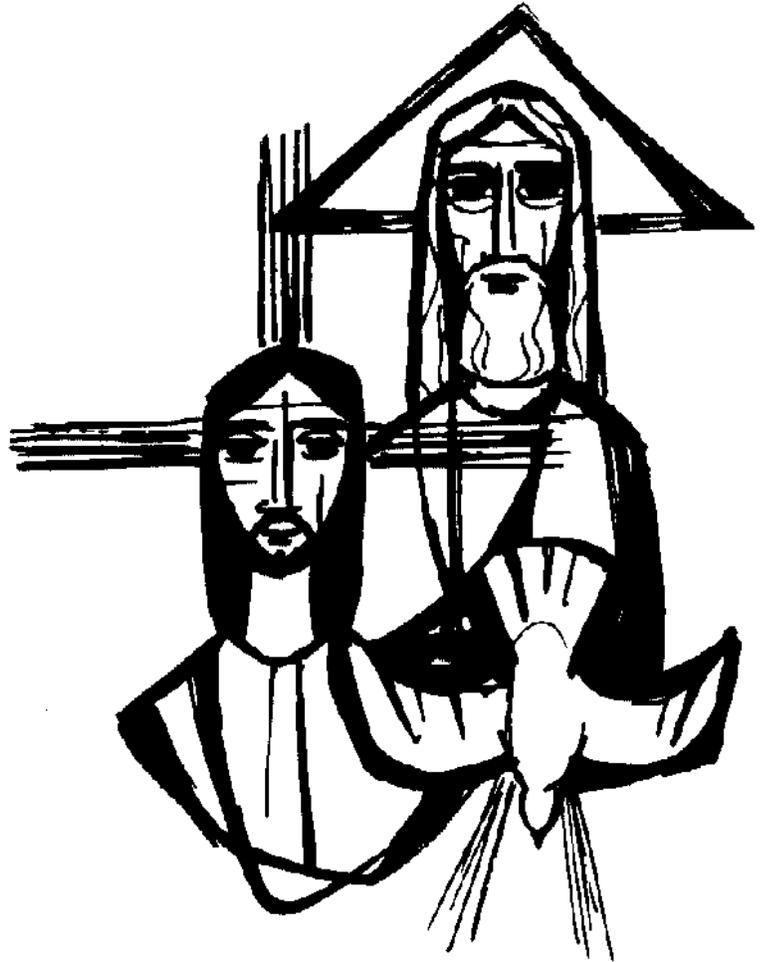


# The Herald

Our Savior Lutheran Church June • Volume 78 • Issue 6

*Trinity Sunday  
June 7, 2020*



*The Rite of Confirmation will be  
celebrated on Saturday, June 6 at  
a 5:00 p.m. service.*

“We Could All Be Heroes...”

It was great being in church last Sunday, with a small but hearty group. It was good to be with people who aren't afraid, or who were conquering the fear that has swept our whole society. It was joyful, rising above concerns for our own safety, caught up in higher things—the Divine Service. You really should come out and join us! It is perfectly legal (yes, Virginia, we are social distancing, and BTW: there really was a Santa Claus, St. Nicholas, a Christian saint). It is good, right, and salutary to worship God. Scriptures all insist *that's* what we were made for; it's what will give us life and joy eternally in Heaven.

I thought about ER workers as we prayed for them last Sunday. We regard them, rightly, as heroes. But, to quote David Bowie, couldn't we *all* be heroes, just for one day—and then maybe the day after that, and the day after that? ER workers aren't despised for spreading the coronavirus. Yet, they are not insignificant *vectors* for disease. But, we don't lock them down (yet!)—even though they aren't really *curing* anybody (there is no cure for a coronavirus). They're just bravely comforting and masking some symptoms of the sick. Why can't we *all* live like that? All vocations are *essential*—to the person doing them and to the people helped or encouraged thereby.

I long for the halcyon days of six months ago when getting a cold was just an unfortunate “act of God” like getting hit by a tornado; when our whole society wasn't dedicated to hunting down human super spreaders who recklessly expose us to disease by not covering sneezes properly, or by shaking your hand in gestures of incredible thoughtlessness—the good old days!

We've all learned things about ourselves the last two months. One thing I didn't realize is how deep a hatred I harbor of being a *patient*—and how deep my distrust of modern medicine is! As much as I admire brave ER workers, my favorite right (that we seem to have lost) is the right to refuse treatment. My job requires spending a lot more time in hospitals than most laymen. I've seen some people helped by modern medicine, but I've seen a lot of people seriously harmed by doing what the doctor says, uncritically. For example, I personally would never get radiation treatment. Cure worse than the disease by far, in that one, from my perspective! My list of treatments to refuse is lengthy. Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel's (controversial!) *Atlantic* article “Why I Hope to Die at 75” documents many of them. It's doctor's advice I can actually follow (I also learned I'm as bad a patient as most doctors)! <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/10/why-i-hope-to-die-at-75/379329/>

But these last two months we've all been treated like patients in a giant hospital—with no right to refuse treatment. I never realized before how much I love free movement (especially swimming!). As bad a patient as I am, I make a far worse *prisoner*. I will be in Group A for every jailbreak.

Our society seems to have succumbed to Machiavellian Madness, as this fine *First Things* essay shows <https://www.firstthings.com/article/2020/06/imprudent-expertise>. Machiavelli taught that actions should be dictated only by *facts* (science based, data driven only—sound familiar?). “Realistic goals like survival, wealth, and power, could not be achieved by the consistent application of moral principles. Morality might make you a good person, but your enemies would cut you down while you were punctiliously observing the moral law.” That was Machiavelli's fear. Now it seems to be everyone's? Well... I *hate* it (and Machiavelli too. I'm a hater, of sin and evil—including that which dwells in my own dark heart; Ps. 139:21-24).

Fear and selfishness are vices, not virtues, lest we forget. I think the modern media has helped us forget these old truths by convincing us it is not selfish to lock ourselves up in our houses for fear of catching a bad cold, but altruistic and virtuous...

Well, I'm sorry to break it to you, but it's *not*. Chasing survival, wealth, and power as we've all been forced to do in the current “crisis” has thrown away any pretense to virtue, honor, or faithfulness. I like the higher things better. My old grad school buddy Rusty Reno has made these points beautifully in *First Things*. Good reading. Better than *Netflix*.

Is there a risk in coming to church? Sure! There's a risk in leaving your house every morning (there's a risk *staying* in your house too!). From the outset, all experts seem to agree on this: 97-99% of those contracting coronavirus will experience either no symptoms or a mild flu-like illness (which may become severe for an unfortunate few). The vast majority of patients who've died (a fairly frightening death, in many cases, it must be admitted) after contracting the coronavirus were elderly and/or had serious underlying illness. Such at risk people should be cautious, perhaps quarantined—if *they* wish. I'm aware that many of our members fall into this “high risk” category. If you're in that group, please talk with me and we will find a good way to minister to you, personally!

But the 97-99% of us are not facing a risk much greater than seasonal flu, it would appear. So why are we hiding in our houses, forced by government and society to abandon our vocations, regular worship, fellowship, and recreation—most of the things that make life worth living? As a number of doctors have said from the start: the only real defense against a coronavirus is for the normally healthy to go about our normal business, perhaps contract it and get over it, thus contributing to herd immunity.

Maybe we could all be herd immunity heroes? Doesn't that have a lovely ring? Machiavelli was a total jerk after all, and wrong about most things, BTW. Courage, modesty, and service are virtues that enoble us and those whose lives they touch. We rightly laud the English people at the outset of WWII in the Blitz, bravely "carrying on" with their vocations, school, pub and church life as bombs rained down daily, killing tens of thousands. They were heroes. I want what they had. If there's a silver lining to the coronavirus cloud (and every cloud has one, right?) it might be the opportunity to reflect on whether the higher ideals that drove Western societies in the past might not be well worth chasing after *again*, ourselves?

In the end, it seems a simple question, to me at least, of "whom do you trust?" One of my favorite hymns, based on Ps. 146 (which just happened to be my assigned lectionary reading this morning) goes like this: "Trust not in princes, they are but mortal/ earth-born they are, and soon decay./ Naught are their counsels at life's last portal/ when the dark grave engulfs its prey./ Since mortal man no help affords/ Trust ye in Christ our God and Lord..."

Psalms 144 says: "man is like a breath/ his days are a passing shadow" Why spend a single one of those fleeting days cowering in fear, obsessed with our own health and survival? Here's Another Way: start the first day of the week in the Divine Service, confessing your sins, hearing God's Word, praising His Name, and receiving His Body and Blood for your forgiveness, life, and salvation. Act as if *this* is the be-all and end-all of life. And the passing shadow of your days will turn out to be a cloud of glory whose radiance is unspeakable.

Because we can be *heroes*, and not just for one day... Jesus makes us so by faith in Him, eternally. Come back to church; let Him do His thing with you. It's only scary for the first few minutes; and then, you kind of lose yourself in wonder, love, and praise—a loss that seems to me a pretty great gain.

the Rev. W. W. W. W.



## Confirmation Sunday

Our Savior Lutheran Church will celebrate the Rite of Confirmation for eleven young people on Saturday, June 6 at a 5:00 p.m. service.

To allow for the appropriate social distancing recommendations we are limiting the service to the confirmands and their families. We will offer our regular 8:30 and 11:00 service on Sunday, June 7 for anyone that would like to attend.



# Worship & Music

Date Service of the Church Year	Service Time	Order of Service	Cantors	Instrumentalists/ Vocalists	Organist
<b>Wednesday June 3</b>	6:30 p.m.	Evening Prayer			Russell Wilcox
<b>Saturday June 6 5:00 Rite of Confirmation</b>	5:00 p.m.	Divine Service	Vicar Bartelt		Russell Wilcox
<b>Sunday June 7 Trinity Sunday</b>	8:30 11:00	Divine Service	Kerri Martinsen Choir	Jubilate Ringers Choir	Noël Hamm Russell Wilcox
<b>Wednesday June 10</b>	6:30 p.m.	Evening Prayer			Noël Hamm
<b>Sunday June 14 2nd Sunday after Pentecost</b>	8:30 11:00	Divine Service Matins	Beth Hallowell Karene & John Frantz	Beth Hallowell Karene & John Frantz	Noël Hamm
<b>Wednesday June 17</b>	6:30 p.m.	Evening Prayer			Noël Hamm
<b>Sunday June 21 3rd Sunday after Pentecost</b>	8:30 11:00	Divine Service	Beth Hallowell Choir	Beth Hallowell Choir	Noël Hamm Russell Wilcox
<b>Wednesday June 24</b>	6:30	Evening Prayer			Russell Wilcox
<b>Sunday June 28 7th Sunday of Easter</b>	8:30 11:00	Divine Service Matins	Beth Hallowell Karene Frantz	Beth Hallowell Karene Frantz	Russell Wilcox

Sunday, 6/7            9:15 a.m.  
 Sunday, 6/14        9:15 a.m.  
 Sunday, 6/21        9:15 a.m.



5717 E. 900 N.  
Ossian, IN 46777

May 2, 2020



Our Savior Lutheran Church  
1500 Glenwood Ave.  
Raleigh, NC 27608

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Wednesday, April 30, I received my vicarage assignment to your congregation. It is with great joy and eager anticipation that I accept this assignment! My fiancée, Lauren, and I look forward to starting married life together with you all in Raleigh.

Since I have duties that will keep me at the seminary until Sunday, August 2, we anticipate moving to Raleigh during that week. We are grateful that you are generously providing housing for us, and we look forward to making our home in the apartment provided.

We are also grateful for the coverage of our health insurance, I will remain on my parents' health insurance plan, but Lauren will be on her own plan, which is currently in the process of being set up.

Lauren and I will be married on July 3. Of course, given the current circumstances, our reception might be delayed. No matter what, we will be married by the time we arrive in Raleigh. This summer, Lauren will be completing her Master's Degree in Intercultural Business Communication at the University of Passau in Germany. She hopes to put her skills to work in a position in Raleigh.

I pray that our time together will be a fruitful and edifying experience as we serve the Lord in the many vocations he has give us.

Peace In Christ,

Ethan Stoppenhagen  
ethan.stoppenhagen@ctsfw.edu

# Staff and Council

## Church Council June 1, 2019 – May 31, 2020

Karl Wagner – President  
 Darwin Roseman – Vice President  
 Sandy Ange – Treasurer  
 Steve Schammel – Financial Secretary  
 Todd Howell – Council Secretary  
 Scott Church – member at large



## Board of Elders June 1, 2019 – May 31, 2020

Karl Abbott, chair      Lyn Aubrecht  
 Zach Dorman          Chuck Jaeger  
 Britt Johnson         Dave Langley  
 Joey Morris

Caring Ministries Chair: Loulie Metzger  
 Education Chair: Faith Orr  
 Fellowship Chair: Karen Lockamy  
 Properties Chair: Joe Lapp  
 Technology Chair: Chuck Jaeger  
 Youth Chair: Tim Orr

<b>FINANCIAL REPORT</b>	
As of April	
<b>Budget</b>	<b>\$ 158,959.68</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$ 146,264.48</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 139,971.88</b>
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$ 6,292.60</b>



Next meeting:  
**Tuesday, July 7**  
 5:30 p.m.

Effective Sunday, May 31, 2020 we will return to our normal service schedule of 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services with Bible class at 9:45 a.m.

We will continue to operate utilizing recommended social distancing recommendations in all of our meeting spaces.

We are working on a plan to implement our volunteers into their roles as we move forward.

**Our Savior Lutheran Church**  
**1500 Glenwood Ave.**  
**Raleigh, NC 27608-2338**  
 Phone: (919) 832-8822  
 FAX: (866) 906-9895 (toll free)  
 Web site: [www.oslcraleigh.org](http://www.oslcraleigh.org)

Pastor                      kmartinnc@gmail.com  
 Reverend Kevin Martin  
 Vicar                      philip.bartelt@stwfw.edu  
 Vicar Philip Bartelt  
 Office                      OSLCadm@gmail.com  
 Maureen Costello

Music  
 Noel Hamm              noel2bach@yahoo.com  
 Handbell Director/Organist  
 Russell Wilcox          music@oslcraleigh.org  
 Music Director/Organist

### Are you running out of offering envelopes?

We will continue to use our unprinted envelopes through 2020. If you need additional envelopes, please see Maureen in the Church Office.

**Offering Envelopes**



OSLC has purchased and installed an automated external defibrillator (AED). It is located in the Church Office in the marked closet—across from the copy room. The door is clearly marked.



# Board of Elders

May 21, 2020

“I wish it need not have happened in my time.” said Frodo. “So do I.” said Gandolf, “and so to all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.”

And yet here we are, May 21st, 2020. No end in sight to the lockdown, which was only supposed to last 2-3 weeks, maybe a month. Sure, tomorrow at 5pm we enter a “Safer at Home” order instead of a “Stay at Home” order, but there are still many things that the government tells us we cannot do. One of those things is working out at the gym, which directly boosts our immune system and may help prevent the most negative aspects of COVID-19 from overwhelming us. You can’t let children play on the playgrounds - regardless of the damage to their development this undoubtedly causes. Even the CDC recently came and said that it’s really hard to transmit COVID-19 through surfaces and that direct human to human contact remains the most likely form of transmission. (<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2020/05/20/coronavirus-does-not-spread-easily-surfaces-objects-cdc/5232748002/>) And yet, we are told these activities are unsafe and illegal.

We are being asked to wear cloth masks (which consequently can pose a serious health threat for the wearer and are not generally recommended by the WHO, see: <https://www.sciencetimes.com/articles/25713/20200518/wearing-face-masks-potentially-harmful-trap-exhaled-viruses-well-individuals.htm> and <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/when-and-how-to-use-masks> not so much because it “slows the spread” (which has not been proven at all with COVID-19) but so we would signal our “strength & compassion for others. Wearing one shows you care about other people’s health.” So sayeth N.C. Governor Roy Cooper, the very man who says playing on the playground and working out at the gym are unsafe and “temporarily” illegal all while telling us we are “Safer at Home” when 66% of NYC COVID-19 hospitalizations were from those who stayed at home.

Our society is rapidly plunging into depression. We are rife with increases in abuse, suicide, and other scary behavior as we stay under these restrictions which prevent people from fulfilling their vocations. We have not even begun to see the far reaching mental health effects that having been locked down for so long will cause. For an interesting read on this, see <https://www.wsj.com/articles/nations-top-mental-health-official-warns-against-a-second-coronavirus-lockdown-11590066006>.

And yet, I am reminded of the words of C.S. Lewis:

“A man may have to die for our country, but no man must, in any exclusive sense, live for his country. He who surrenders himself without reservation to the temporal claims of a nation, or a party, or a class is rendering to Caesar that which, of all things, most emphatically belongs to God: himself.”

In being locked down, in following all of these anti-social rules in foregoing our vocations, are we not surrendering ourselves without reservation to the temporal claims of the United States and of North Carolina?

With the latest executive order 141 churches are thankfully exempt from any of the restrictions. We are allowed to operate without any interference from the state. Yet the government has spent the last 2+ months sowing an atmosphere of fear and many are now afraid to go anywhere, even church, where we find the very Lord’s Table promised in Psalm 23:

The Lord is my shepherd:  
I shall not want.  
He makes us me to lie down in green pastures:  
He leads me beside the still water.  
He restores my soul;  
He leads me in the paths of righteousness  
For His name’s sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil;  
For You are with me;  
Your rod and Your staff; they comfort me.

*Continued on next page*

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
You anoint my head with oil;  
My cup runneth over.  
Surely goodness and mercy will follow me  
All the days of my life;  
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord  
Forever.

It is at this very table that we come in direct contact with the real physical presence of Christ Himself. For you see, this table is located in the house of the Lord, where we will dwell forever.

We should not shun coming to the table. The Lord promises us that goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our short lives. Even whilst we are surrounded by corruption, the coronavirus, depression, abuse, and many other real scary things that threaten our earthly being.

“All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to us.” Many churches closed early. Many are still closed - some even after executive order 141! This is sadly because most “churches” do not hold that we come in direct contact with real physical presence of Christ Himself. By not believing in the Bodily Presence, they surrender themselves without reservation to the temporal claims of a nation. By staying closed these Pastors are shunning their vocations and in so doing are sinning against God and against the very parishioners they have been called to serve!

We are walking through the valley of the shadow of death, and we should fear no evil for God is with us! Come dwell in the house of the Lord and come to His glorious table! Come commune with Christ and all the Saints who have gone before us and the Saints who will come after us! We live in the end times - evil about everywhere - fear runs rampant around the world. And yet there is one true comfort - the rod and staff, the Body and Blood, of Him, our Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, truly physically present at the table in His house, where we are welcome to dwell forever.

Kyrie Eleison!

Karl Abbott  
Chairman of the Board of Elders

## Congratulations and God's richest blessings on all graduates and their families.



**Claire Cooper**, graduated from the University of South Carolina in December, 2019 with a BS in Sport and Entertainment Management. She earned her diploma at the completion of her final internship. She is currently seeking an event management position. Claire is the daughter of Carolina and Joel Cooper.

**Hampton Cooper**, is graduating from Trinity Academy in Raleigh. He will attend the University of South Carolina in the fall, majoring in Mechanical Engineering and joining the Air Force ROTC. Hampton is the son of Carolina and Joel Cooper.

**Nathaniel Cooper**, will graduate this summer with an MS in Mechanical Engineering from the University of South Carolina. After graduation he will remain in Columbia, SC to start a job at Navatek in September. Nathaniel is the son of Carolina and Joel Cooper.

**Charlotte Goto**, will graduate from Leesville High School in Raleigh. She will attend the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC in the fall. Charlotte is the daughter of Diane and Russell Goto and the granddaughter of Marilyn Dixon.

**George Goto**, graduated from North Carolina State University with a degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation. George is the son of Diane and Russell Goto and the grandson of Marilyn Dixon.

**Michelle Goto**, graduated from Emory University with a Doctorate in Physical Therapy. Michelle is the daughter of Diane and Russell Goto and the granddaughter of Marilyn Dixon.

**Connor Gridley**, graduated from the University of South Carolina and will begin a job at Lenovo in June. Connor is the son of Kim and Ron Gridley.

**Payne Gridley**, graduated from Ravenscroft in Raleigh. He will attend The University of the South: Sewanee, in Sewanee TN. Payne is the son of Kim and Ron Gridley.

**Michaela Johnson**, graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill with a graduate degree in Speech and Hearing Sciences.

**Matt Murphy**, graduated from Towson State University in Maryland with a degree in Environmental Science. He is engaged to be married in the fall of 2021. Matt is the nephew of Debbie Murphy.

**Lauren Elaine Morris**, completed the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program at Broughton High School. She will attend The Ohio State University in the fall. Lauren is the daughter of Charli and Joey Morris.

**Timothy Sheridan**, graduated with a Masters of Divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana. He has been called to serve as the pastor of St. Luke Lutheran Church in Harrison, Michigan.

**Bailey Lynn Wagner**, is graduating from Holly Springs High School in Holly Springs. She will attend the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC in the fall. Bailey is the daughter of Brenda and Karl Wagner. Her grandmother is Ann Wagner.

**Christopher Wagner**, completed Holly Ridge Middle School and will continue on to Holly Springs High School. Christopher is the son of Brenda and Karl Wagner. His grandmother is Ann Wagner.

## Celebrations



Tom Larsen	6/1
Logan Palmer	6/1
Bethany Martin	6/2
Dick Weiss	6/2
Tyler Lapp	6/4
Sylvia Lorenz	6/5
Jan Stinagle	6/6
Debbie Murphy	6/7
Spencer Knudsen	6/8
Chloe Beaty	6/13
Steve Dezern	6/13
Michael Knudsen	6/14
Rebecca Johnson	6/15
Sara Kamprath	6/15
Charles Sheridan	6/17
Bill Barrow	6/20
Bruce Bailey	6/21
Michelle Goodwin	6/22
Nick Fragedakis	6/24
Tim Shank	6/24
Matthew Hayakawa	6/25
Layla Opperman	6/25
Ann Moore	6/28
Anne Baden	6/28
Ruth Beaty	6/29
John Werner	6/29
Ellie Knudsen	6/30
Pastor Martin	6/30

Congratulations to  
**Laura Ann (Goodwin) and Matt Smith**  
on the safe and healthy delivery of a daughter,  
Savannah. **Savvy's grandmother is**  
**Lisa Goodwin.**

Congratulations to  
**Sandy & Steve Carpenter** as they welcome a  
grandson, **Dempsey Augustus Tripp** born to  
**Jeannine (Carpenter) and Richard Tripp.**

Congratulations to **Danna Markoff** as she welcomes  
a second grandson, **Noah Steven Markoff**, born in  
**Seattle to Paul and Jill Markoff.**

God's richest blessings on these growing families.



## Congregational Care

*We remember in prayer ...*

**Brandon Baden**, U.S.A.F., nephew of Britt & Sandie Johnson

**Matt Beaty**, U.S. Army, Fort Bragg, NC

**Capt. Benjamin Brighton**, U.S.M.C., grandson of Erika Swaim, Norfolk, VA

**LTC Shane Evans**, U.S. Army National Guard, cousin of Carmen Madler, deployed to Kuwait

**Maj. Denny Gerold**, U.S.A.F., Fort Bragg, NC

**Cpt. Joshua Gilreath**, U.S.A.F., nephew of Tim Potter

**SFC Ken Martinsen**, NC National Guard, 130th MEB, NC

**Lnc. Cpl. Logan Palmer**, U.S.M.C., Camp LeJeune, NC

**Maj. Johnny Sherrill**, ANG- New Jersey, husband of Rachel Baden, KC-135 Pilot, McGuire AFB

**Seth Templeton**, U.S. Army, 82nd Airborne, husband of Michelle Goto

**Chaplain Greg Todd**, U.S. Navy

**Ken Woods**, U.S. Army, brother of Tim Woods, stationed at Fort Leavenworth, KS

**Senior Chief Chris Yacur**, U.S. Navy, husband of former member Erin Schmidt Yacur, stationed in GA

**Justin Zehms**, U.S. Army, nephew of Beth and Mark Hallowell, returned from deployment

**OSLC Members:**

**Bruce & Gretchen Bailey**, age related health concerns

**Payne Gridley**, anticipating knee surgery on 6/3

**Joe Hayes**, continuing health concerns

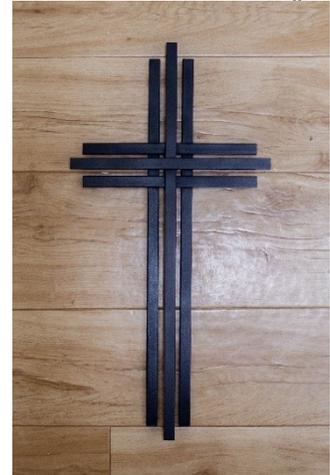
**Tommy Johnson**, son of Dennis & Kandy Johnson, continuing health concerns

**Margaret Toburan**, hospitalized with broken hip after a fall

**Charlie Woest**, continuing his recovery from knee replacement surgery

Dear Family and Friends in Christ,

Our names are Michaela and Ryan Johnson. We attend Our Savior Lutheran Church LCMS in Raleigh, North Carolina. We recently created a cross for the newly redesigned narthex at OSLC and have received some interest in smaller versions of the cross for people to have at home. At this time, we would like to formally announce that we will be selling **18" black, metal crosses** (as pictured) for **\$65**. These crosses are lightweight for easy hanging and designed to represent the Trinity. We are able to ship the cross for an extra **\$10 shipping fee** or have them available for pick-up at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Raleigh, NC (after the end of the North Carolina stay-at-home mandate).



Payments may be submitted via Paypal (mhese101@gmail.com), Venmo (@MichaelaJohnson101), or in cash (for in-person orders ONLY) after initial order via email, phone, or in-person at OSLC (Sunday mornings). If you are interested in purchasing a cross, you may contact us via email: mhese101@gmail.com (preferred) or phone: 513-551-6317. Please include your name, desired number of crosses, payment method, and shipping (with address)/pick-up information in email. Allow up to 3-4 weeks for fabrication and processing time dependent upon quantity of orders received (and current supplies due to stay-at-home mandate). Crosses will ship or be available for pick-up after payment has been received. Thank you for your support.

God's Blessings,

*Michaela and Ryan Johnson*

## From the Vicar

The Apocalypse of John, also known as the Book of Revelation, has confused and confounded Christians since the first century. We can see a surprising example of its somewhat mixed reception through writings of the church father, Eusebius. At the Council of Nicea, Eusebius asked the various bishops present which books made up their canon of Scripture. The books which were unanimously endorsed were put into one category, while the books which were not unanimously accepted were put into another category. Revelation merited a category of its own by being claimed as both canonical and spurious!

In our own time, the mixed reception of Revelation has been testified to by theologians and laypeople, orthodox clergy, and cult leaders alike. One of the reasons why I think the book has received such skepticism and contempt is because the language and imagery are notoriously difficult to comprehend. However, I would also say that one of the ways to begin to unveil the mystery surrounding the book is actually quite simple. This first step is quite plainly to read Revelation in light of the Old Testament.

One of the reasons why there are so many scattered opinions about the book is because readers are not firmly rooted in the language and imagery of the Old Testament. Even though there are no direct quotations from the Old Testament in Revelation itself, almost a fifth of the book's wording is stolen directly from the first 17 books of the Bible. When Revelation's words **are** read against their original context, old meaning and new meaning are simultaneously brought to light as language and imagery is translated from the Old Testament to the New.

One of the very first things that we see when Revelation is held up to the Old Testament is its genre. Knowing the genre of any given piece of literature helps set expectations for how a work should be read, what statements one can expect to find within, common literary devices to be on the lookout for, etc. The genre of Revelation is twofold.

First, we encounter Revelation with Old Testament eyes as a prophetic book. John follows a long prophetic tradition that encompasses great men like Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel. The readers can expect to see the prophet (John) prophesying to the people of his day (the seven churches of Asia) both the positive and negative judgments of God. The word of God concerning both the present and the future will be declared to the people, usually indicating present woes (the call to repentance) but also future joys (absolution).

A perfect example of John's continuation of this tradition is his famous oracle against Babylon in chapters 18 and 19, which echoes the oracles against Babylon and Tyre in content, style, and wording that are found in Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel. One notable difference in the prophetic tradition is that John writes after the coming of Christ and therefore looks forward more directly to the second coming of Christ, judgment day.

A second genre we also recognize from the Old Testament is that of apocalyptic literature. Revelation stands in the tradition of canonical books like Daniel and Ezekiel. By "apocalyptic," I mean that John is revealing God's hidden work on earth and in heaven on our behalf and describing ultimate reality. Put another way, John is giving us a "God's-eye-view" of what is going on and how everything will eventually come to an end. This peeking behind the curtain into the transcendent reality of God is very clearly signaled in Revelation by John's appearing before the throne room of God - a scene which has its roots in Daniel and Ezekiel where the seer is taken out of his worldview and placed into God's worldview (Ez 1:26/ Dn 7:9).

Because of the radically new and divine perspective being presented, apocalyptic literature is given to use figures of speech, metaphors, and symbolic language/numbers extremely freely as opposed to literal narrative and should be read with this in mind. In addition to giving the readers a different perspective on their day-to-day experience, apocalyptic literature seeks to answer a question borne from the spiritual attack and suffering experienced in this broken world: who is Lord over the world? This question was painfully present among those who were being exiled to Babylon in Daniel's day, and this question was equally acute for those Christians in John's day under the Roman Empire.

These two genres and the Old Testament books that accompany them determine both the broader strokes and the finer details of the book. John has a wealth of images, descriptions, and stories to pull from within the older prophetic and apocalyptic books of Scripture. John even takes imagery from the culture and pagan mythology of his day as the Old Testament prophets did (Is 27:1). The popular mythological figures of the sea serpent or the dragon feature prominently in John's description of the forces of evil forces and the devil (Rev 12:7). An even greater example of John's use of the Old Testament and present-day images is his description of the seven trumpets and the seven bowls.

In this highly schematized description of destruction and death, John draws together the evocative images of the plagues of Egypt, the Exodus, the fall of Jericho under Joshua, the army of locusts described in Joel, the appearance of God on Mt. Sinai, the contemporary invasion of the Parthian empire, the earthquakes that plagued the cities of Asia Minor, and even the eruption of Vesuvius. Together, these images form the worst fears of the past and the present blown up to apocalyptic proportions to show how great and awesome God's judgment will be. The bowls and trumpets of judgment end climactically in Revelation with the destruction of Babylon (Rev 20:9) which echoes further the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gn 19:24) so that the final image of judgment and hell is of a city like Sodom sunken in an eternally burning, sulphuric, smoking lake of fire (Rev 20:14).

Reading Revelation in light of the Old Testament has the effect of creating a perpetually new book. Every time you open it, new connections, allusions, and images jump off the page, causing further wonder and appreciation for the book. As that wonder and appreciation grow, so does our hope and trust in God as we see more clearly who is, indeed, Lord over all. We see Christ seated on the throne as Lord (Rev 4:2). He is the lamb who was slain (Rev 5:6), but he is also the lamb who has conquered all our foes by this death. We see the new heavens and the new earth coming soon where God will dwell among men once again (Rev 21:1). He will be their God, and they will be his people. And he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more. There will be no more pain, no more crying for the former things will have passed away (Rev 21:4). And we behold finally that in Christ our King all things are made new.

*Vicar Bartelt*

## LWML

### DO YOU HAVE TIME FOR SOME EXPLORING?

The **LWML** website has a wealth of information. Find out more about our mission grants and read thank you notes from some of our grant recipients. Find Bible studies to use at home. Explore resources from different committees. It's all at your fingertips! Go to [lwml.org](http://lwml.org) and be amazed at what you find.

**THE SUMMER EDITION OF THE LUTHERAN WOMAN'S QUARTERLY is now available on the table in front of the **LWML** bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.**

### JUNE MARKS THE END OF THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2020.

The Mission of the Quarter for April/May/June is the Church Health Ministry @ Abiding Savior Lutheran Church.

This year, Abiding Savior Lutheran Church in Anderson, SC, is initiating their Church Health Ministry. The funds received from the Mission of the Quarter will go toward purchase of materials for providing health education classes as well as walking and exercise programs that also offer spiritual growth to their congregation and community.

If you would like to contribute to this mission outreach in our Carolinas District, please use a **LWML** envelope found in the pew racks or send a check to Debbie Roseman by June 30.

### THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO SAVE MITES!



The biennium for the Carolinas District ends August 30, 2020. With so many of us staying at home due to the coronavirus and the summer months which traditionally are slow months for gathering mites, it is vitally important that you continue to save your spare change in support of the **LWML** grants. The following grants are waiting for funding –

#### **Professional Church Work Student Assistance - \$2500.00**

This grant is sent to the Southeastern District LCMS to assist with providing tuition for those in North and South Carolina who are studying to be pastors and fulltime church workers.

#### **New Mission Starts in the Carolinas - \$5,000**

This grant is distributed as needed to new mission starts in both North and South Carolina by the Southeastern District LCMS Board for Mission.

#### **Support for Concordia Seminary International Graduate School Students - \$3,000**

The sharing of the Gospel is increasing in a number of different parts of the world. There is a significant shortage of well-informed Lutheran pastors with advanced theological education in the majority of these countries and options outside of the U.S. are few. Few overseas Lutheran church bodies have the resources to send their most capable students. This grant will provide vital support for Concordia Seminary's International Graduate School students.

#### **Casa Bethesda, Santiago, Chile - \$820**

The Confessional Lutheran Church of Chile, a partner church body with the LCMS, formed Fundacion de Casa Betesda, a non-profit organization, under which the members of La Cruz de Cristo congregation could raise funds and make contributions for the construction of a building to house Centro de Atencion Casa Betesda, which was dedicated May 2017. Rehabilitative services, devotions, prayers and ministry to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities began in September of 2017. This grant will help cover the salaries of the four employees – a physical therapist, a communication/speech therapist, a special education teacher, and an assistant.

## LWML ONGOING COLLECTIONS

### **Travel size toiletries**

Don't forget to collect travel size toiletries as you vacation. The toiletries are given to the Matthew Ministry at Jordan Lutheran Church. Teams from Jordan hand out these items to the homeless in downtown Raleigh twice a month on Saturdays.

### **Used eyeglasses**

Used eyeglasses are taken to the Eye Care Center in Cary.

You will find collection baskets for these items on the table beneath the **LWML** bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

The mission of Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) is to passionately reach out to people who are blind and visually impaired with the Good News of their Savior, Jesus Christ. There are over 36 million people in the world who are blind or visually impaired, with an estimate of over 94 percent of that population being unchurched. Many have not had access to reading the Word of God by themselves. New technology now exists that makes the development of braille materials into additional languages easier. Purchases of the new, Puma plate embossing device, is critical to meet the demand of producing the Bible and other materials. The saving news of God's grace can then be spread to more people throughout the world. Funds from this mission grant will help LBW purchase the machine and pay for shipping, installation, and staff training.

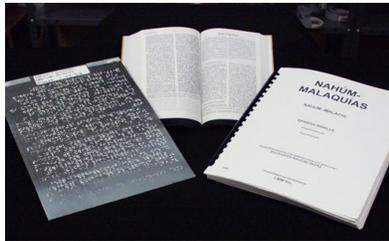
## Touching the Living Word Lutheran Braille Workers \$100,000

Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) has been bringing the gospel to blind and visually impaired people around the world since 1943. In its 76 year history, LBW has produced and distributed for free over 14 million volumes of braille, large print, and audio materials. Many volunteers help produce these Bibles and other materials using zinc plates, braille presses, specialized paper, covers, and spiral bindings. Currently these materials are published in 11 languages and sent to over 130 countries. They have published over 220,000 volumes over the last 42 months as the demand keeps increasing. This incredible volume takes its toll on the production equipment since each page requires separate zinc plates which are produced by a plate embossing device. The main challenge facing LBW's goal is having the machines and technology available to produce the zinc plates. With this grant LBW will be able to purchase a PUMA plate embossing device capable of creating the necessary number of zinc plates to meet production needs. It will also allow the production of more plates in different languages, reaching even more people with the Good News of Salvation.



A Zinc plate coming off of a plate embossing device before being sent to Ministry Production Centers throughout the United States

A Zinc plate is used to produce pages in Braille materials; a copy of a Spanish Bible for the sighted and a copy of one volume of a Braille Bible in Spanish



WHEREAS, the Bible declares, "And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations ..." (Matthew 24:14a), and He uses our hands to help share the Gospel; and

WHEREAS, Lutheran Braille Workers, one of the largest producers of the Bible in Braille throughout the world, is daily asked to send God's Word to people who are Blind or Visually impaired; and

WHEREAS, LBW has been sending Braille Bibles and other Christian materials in multiple languages to over 130 countries worldwide for free; and

WHEREAS, the number of requests for the Bible in Braille have only increased, along with the need for zinc plates in production of these materials; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the delegates gathered at the 2019 Lutheran Women's Missionary League Convention in Mobile, Alabama, vote the sum of \$100,000 to help fund touching the Living Word—Lutheran Braille Workers.



A number of LBW's volunteers stuffing multiple Zinc Plates before being sent through the Braille Press.

A number of young men at a school in India who are excited to be reading their volumes of a Braille Bible.



**WE PRAY TOGETHER ...** Dear heavenly Father, we thank You for blessing the work of Lutheran Braille Workers and the dedication of thousands of volunteers who have labored to print and assemble braille Bibles. We ask You to continue to bless their work so that the love of Christ can spread to people who are blind or visually impaired. In His name we pray. Amen