



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

A CONGREGATION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

1950 NAGEL ROAD
CINCINNATI OH 45255

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RAMBLINGS

OUR VISION STATEMENT

To become a vibrant, benevolent congregation that serves God's creation both locally and globally.

A congregation that offers meaningful and inspirational ministries and worship for all ages that honor and praise God while maintaining the feel of an intimate family in Christ.

Also, a congregation that provides opportunities for all to be involved in ministries and programs that foster the development of gifts in all people needed to sustain and expand God's mission.

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LCR SUNDAY SCHOOL: LIVE STREAM FOR FALL SEMESTER 2020

-Pastor Nicole and Pastor Zorn

In attempting to address the pandemic in a safe way we have decided that the fall semester of Sunday School for all ages will be held via Zoom. Pastor Nicole, along with some of our Sunday School teachers will be leading the children and Pastor Zorn will be coordinating adult Sunday School. We have learned much from the virtual Vacation Bible School this summer and we believe that we can effectively apply that information to a virtual Sunday School that will provide a good learning opportunity for all.

Sunday School for all ages will begin on **September 20**. Children Pre-K through 5th grade will be invited to a one room school house Sunday school experience looking at stories that focus on compassion and "learning to love like God." Parents are encouraged to take part, too! This curriculum has been crafted by the same group that did our VBS this summer. Further details and curriculum for teens will be forthcoming.

The adults will begin with a live stream series titled, "By What Authority? Rethinking Early Christian History." Since Jesus did not return as quickly as believers assumed He would, they had to figure out how to live as believers in the world they lived in. They ended up inventing the church. This video series will examine some of the questions that they had to answer: Who are we? Who is in and who is out? Can we participate in civic life? Who is Jesus? Who leads us; in worship, in teaching, and in community life? How do we fund our community? Does it matter how we live?

This study will likely take us through September and October. In November, Julie Pahutski will lead a study in conjunction with our world hunger focus. At the end of November, we will reassess things contingent on the status of the pandemic at that time. Any members who have interest in presenting a topic for adult Sunday School or suggesting a topic of study are encouraged to contact Pastor Zorn.

DEBUNKING PRAYER

“...one of his disciples said to him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray...’” –Luke 11:1

I find it interesting that we all know that prayer is essential to the Christian life and practice yet there seems to be such uncertainty about it. Over the years, I have had any number of people say something like this to me, “Pastor, I have been a Christian for (you insert the number) years and I am embarrassed to say that I don’t know how to pray!” Sometimes that statement only sits as a confession. Other times it turns into a dialogue and allows me to offer some ideas. I don’t profess to be an expert but I am always willing to offer some thoughts about prayer and my own personal prayer practices.

Maybe one of the reasons that prayer seems so confusing is that there is so much paradox about it. Prayer is complicated stuff that spiritual stalwarts of the Church have devoted entire lifetimes to and written deep and mystical books about...yet prayer is also as simple as having a conversation with God. Prayer is talking...but prayer is also listening. Prayer is audible...and yet prayer is silent. Prayer can be taught by the masters...and prayer is also incredibly personal and unique to each individual. Prayer is public...and prayer is private. Prayer is Christian...but prayer is not exclusive to Christians; it is foundational to many world religions and even to those who don’t claim to be “religious.” Is there any wonder that we can become easily confused about prayer!

One of the things that I find refreshing and freeing about prayer and spirituality is that those whom we consider to be the “masters” are so very humble and graceful about their prayer lives. I have found this to be universally true of the giants that we tend to put on pedestals. I have not come across one who considers herself or himself to be an expert. Rather, they all seem to agree in some way that we all begin anew each day. That, in some sense, we are all neophytes when it comes to prayer; that we all hold something in common with those first apostles of Jesus who exclaimed, “Lord, teach us to pray!”

That being said, we can surely learn about prayer from the ones who have been recognized as mystics over the generations of Christianity. One of my favorites is the Trappist monk, Thomas Merton (1915-1968). I have just finished reading a book about Merton’s spirituality and I wanted to share some quotes that I believe you will find helpful, hopeful, and encouraging. As you read and reflect on each of these, note Merton’s humility and grace, his acknowledgement that there is no one way, and his closing words, “And if prayer is openness to and awareness of God’s love at the root of all that is, how *can* we “get it wrong”?”

By the way, if you would like to engage in conversation about prayer, please know that Pastor Nicole and I would welcome it! We also commend the ministries of LCR’s contemplative community.

“Whether we are conscious of it or not, we Christians *do* behave as if activity in the material world has effects in the spiritual world (and vice versa) or we wouldn’t pray prayers of intercession.

Monastic and Christian humility is about conforming to the image of Christ and developing mastery over the persistent little demon of ego that can manifest as self-assertion, often over things that don’t even matter much.

Ubiquitous noise isn’t normal. But we are beginning to accept it as such, and all the little demons cheer and wag their forked tails in glee. If we cannot listen, if we cannot hear clearly, we cannot know to what or to whom we should be obedient. And, more fundamentally than that, we cannot know who we are. For a number of people the inability to be quiet and alone is because they are afraid of themselves (perhaps because they still operate out of a False Self), afraid of what they might hear and, therefore, of what they might have to *do* to be obedient in response to what if heard. (Note that this is written long before the advent of the internet!)

Whoever we are, wherever we are in life’s journey, the call is to be open to finding God in everything and everybody. If we do, or even *try* to do so, life will never, ever be boring.

It isn’t a question of there being one right way to pray ... we should be perfectly free to explore all sorts of avenues and ways of prayer.

Mostly, simply to pray is “to start where you are and to become aware of connections.” It is dangerous and distracting to create too many rigid methods and rules around prayer, which is really essentially alertness and aliveness in the present moment, openness to the omnipresence of God. This might be to say that prayer gets complex when we make our definition of prayer too narrow. Then we worry if we are “doing it right,” which leads to self-consciousness, a fatal error because prayer is centered on and “about” God, not the one who prays or, in intercessory prayer, the matter prayed for. And if prayer is openness to and awareness of God’s love at the root of all that is, how *can* we “get it wrong”?

Shaped by the End You Live For: Thomas Merton’s Monastic Spirituality, Bonnie B. Thurston, Liturgical Press, © 2020

Peace,
Pastor Zorn

A message from your Church Council

-Kris Kant, Church Council President

“May you live in interesting times”. That phrase was originally considered a curse. Interesting times mean disorder, chaos, unknowing. We don’t have the choice to live in these times - much as we might want to avoid the challenges they present. We have enormous health issues related to Covid 19, compounded by our national response being politicized. We have social upheaval in the relations between people of color and the police. We are beginning to see more clearly the extent of institutional racism and its far-reaching influence. We at our own church had our Pride display vandalized. Are you exhausted? Are you weary? Pause to catch your breath and ponder the fifth statement in our Covenant of the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection. It reminds us:” As Christ did not turn away from anyone in need, **we will reach out, without hesitation, to serve others and witness to our faith in daily life.**”

From a faith perspective, we are fortunate to have the teachings of Jesus to guide us. Some members have questioned whether our mission has changed because we seem to have such a social justice focus of late. Our mission has not changed, rather it has broadened, deepened, and amplified. Jesus showed us that care and welcoming for the other is foundational to our calling as Christians. The Samaritan, the woman at the well, the leper, the prostitute, the tax collector, the blind and lame - all received grace and acceptance.

Much of what we have responded to has been beyond our control. We didn’t create these world events. Care for marginalized groups of people has always been part of our mission. Also, realize that we are not doing this alone. For example, we received social- and print-media support during the week following the desecration of our Pride sign. LCR congregation members and our Pastors participated in a silent gathering in support of people of color. Both were positive and welcoming actions in response to negative events. “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today” (Genesis 50:20) We are taking deliberate actions to prevent our mission from being misunderstood, by our members and the world. But that does not change the fact that our church stands alongside the marginalized. We are also reminded in Matthew (25:40) ‘...Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’

"A church that does not provoke any crisis, preach a gospel that does not unsettle, proclaim a word of God that does not get under anyone's skin or a word of God that does not touch the real sin of the society in which it is being proclaimed: what kind of gospel is that?" -Archbishop Oscar Romero. We seldom get to choose the challenges before us but we do get to choose how we will respond. LCR includes in its covenant that we have chosen to reach out without hesitation to serve others and witness to our faith in daily life.

If you have any concerns, please know that you may bring them to your Pastors or your Church Council.

Divine Feminine Zoom Class

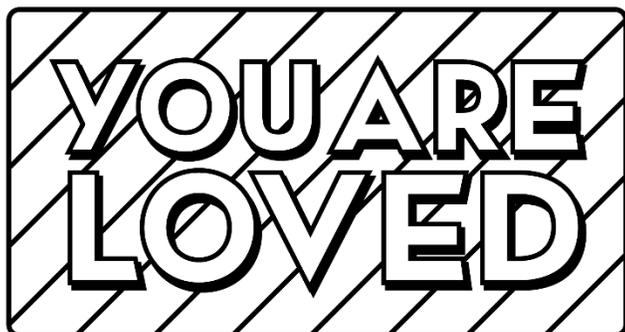
Over the years, I have shared some of my journey exploring themes and images of the Divine Feminine in the Christian tradition. The pursuit ebbs and flows for me but never fades, always drawing me into deeper relationship with God and Christ. I sometimes catch a glimpse of the feminine face of God in a passage of scripture or find that she makes herself known in biblical image or language. Historical Christianity has largely shied away from and covered over her, but biblical scholarship supports her presence and provides new ways to be in relationship with God and with ourselves. If you have interest and would like to explore the Divine Feminine, I’m going to offer a class via Zoom **August 13, September 3, and September 10** at 7:00 p.m. Email Pastor Nicole at pastorkelly@lcreresurrection.org to sign up by August 9.
Warmly,

◁<Pr. Nicole



The Backpack and School Year Blessing is coming via Livestream on August 23!

Help us get ready by picking up and coloring tags for our students as an act of prayer and love to be returned to LCR by August 19!!



As we look to the fall, I know two things; this year will be unlike any other education year before, and we could all use some prayer and the reminder that we are loved unconditionally as we embark upon it. While the need for safety and distance makes it difficult to offer an in-person backpack blessing this year, the pandemic also makes a blessing all the more important and meaningful. So, we're getting creative!

In years past, we have invited congregants to share notes of blessing and prayer to place in kids' backpacks as part of the official backpack blessing during worship. We won't be able to do so in the same way this year, but we would love our members to pass on notes of blessing, prayer, and love to our children and youth by helping to color keychain tags for each student to hang on their backpack. Cardstock strips with tags like the above saying, "You are loved," will be in the vestibule beginning **August 1**. Anyone who would like to offer love and prayer, are asked to pick one up, color the design, write a prayer or note on the back and return it to LCR by August 19th. I will take all those that have been colored for lamination and hole punching to transform them into keychain tags for children and youth to hang on their backpacks. Then, all the finished tags will be blessed during virtual worship on August 23 to be ready for distribution so our kids can have them when they head back to school on August 27!



The next Enter the Silence, Awaken the Spirit contemplative service will be on **Tuesday, August 11** at 7:00 p.m.



The Endowment Fund

ENDOWMENT FUND NEWS

- Planning Your Estate?
Please consider a gift from your estate to the LCR Endowment Fund.
Use this language to make a gift (bequest):
"I give and bequeath to Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, an Ohio nonprofit corporation (located at 1950 Nagel Road; Cincinnati, OH 45255; FEIN 31-0810197) [a sum of money, percentage of my estate or description of the gift]. I request that the gift be added to the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection Endowment Fund."
The Endowment Committee can help you with any questions.
- Do you have ideas for outreach to the community or a way to enhance LCR's mission in the community?

The LCR Endowment Committee is pleased to announce the availability of \$1,400 to make grants for these purposes. The committee intends to make more than one grant with this current year's amount.

Examples of projects or efforts the Endowment Fund has supported in the past include: Habitat for Humanity, First Lutheran Church in Over-The-Rhine, Guatemala outreach, hospitality benches in the Narthex, the Columbarium, Inter Parish Ministry's mobile food pantry, the hand bells, Memorial Gardens benches, the outreach committee's freezer and Heartfelt Tidbits.

A simple application form is available from the church office and will be due no later than **September 30** to the church office. The committee will review all applications and communicate by October 31. Contact Jim Michaelis, Ed Nemann, Kay Luccasen, Michelle Ewing or Eileen Wegner with questions.

3rd Annual Festival August 23-30, 2020



Greetings, friend of the Festival and its interfaith goals! We hope this note finds you and yours safe and in good health and your organization holding its own.

Last year at about this time your organization was in the midst of our historic gathering of more than 3,000 people representing 30 faith traditions and 13 world religions as an exhibitor at the 2nd Annual Cincinnati Festival of Faiths. Held at Xavier's Cintas Center, the Festival was an amazing celebration of our community's rich religious diversity. And it was very entertaining and lots of fun, too. Thank you for being there!

Well, much has happened since then. Our lives have been radically altered by this historic pandemic, our divisive politics have sadly worsened, and most recently, the George Floyd tragedy has dramatically reminded us of the tremendous amount of work still ahead to ensure racial justice. These and other social dynamics have only underscored our need to come together as a caring community of persons of faith.

While health considerations won't permit us to come together in person, we can still come together as an interfaith community - virtually, at the 3rd Annual Cincinnati Festival of Faiths. This year we are hosting "Festival of Faiths Week," from **Sunday, August 23 through Sunday, August 30th**, during which the community will be treated to 16 different interfaith activities, presented on line, once again appealing to all interests and ages. This year's theme is **"Compassion through Action: 20/20 Vision for Hope, Healing and Justice."** I urge you to visit the EquaSion website to learn about these interesting activities <https://www.equasion.org/festival-of-faiths/schedule-of-activities/>.



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

What's New in the Southern Ohio Synod?

- Julie Pahutski, Mission Interpreter

Have you visited the ELCA website lately? Here are some of the things on the site.

- Commemoration of the Emmanuel Nine
- Weekly services for worshipping at home
- A video on "Understanding Privilege" from Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton, who tells a story about her father, who was an airman in WWII and was protected by the Tuskegee Airmen.
- Information about how churches can support the UN's High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
- An "urgent call to Christians" for Kairos Palestine and Global Kairos for Justice, a worldwide coalition born in response to the oppression of the Palestinian people.

In this unprecedented time of turmoil in our world, it is worth looking at the site now and then to see how our church organization is working to spread Christ's peace and love. Check out elca.org.

Calling all those concerned about hunger in our community

On August 22, LCR will participate in an interfaith mobile "pop-up" pantry with Immaculate Heart of Mary, Anderson United Methodist, and St. John, Fisher churches. This ecumenical effort will offer an additional source of food for up to 200 families who need it in our community. It's a great opportunity to work with other faith-based organizations to multiply our collective good.

There are two ways you can help.

- Stop by LCR any time between **August 1 and August 20** and drop off one or more of the following items:
 - Cans of fruit (we need 600)
 - Breakfast item (we need 80)
 - Starch such as pasta, rice, etc. (we need 200)
- Sign up to help transport, package, and load up food boxes into people's trunks on August 22. It's a gift to meet other church members in Anderson and to help feed God's people. Some tasks will be outside, some will be inside. All will mandate masks and be socially distanced. If you are comfortable with these precautions, look for a link to Sign Up Genius in the Wednesday newsletter on August 5 or contact Julie Pahutski at jmpahutski@fuse.net or 513-236-4778.

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them." Matthew 18:20



Weeds and Wheat (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43)

-Kate Adelman, Executive Director and Pastor, House of Prayer Navajo Lutheran Church, Rockpoint, AZ



Navajo Tea (Dééh) - As you pass through the Navajo Nation, Navajo tea growing beside the road would look like a useless weed to most travelers. It is a coveted morning drink for Navajo households, warranting forages to ‘secret’ locations where the best, purest tea is found. Navajo talk of a deep sense of kinship with all things in nature called *K'é*. Mothers plan family events to search for Navajo tea, wild parsley and wild onions, all the while teaching children where to find these treasured cultural foods. A survey by the Diné Policy Institute at Diné College in Tsaile found that 82 percent of Navajo prefer to eat like their ancestors, valuing nature's 'gift' of nourishment and healing.



Corn Pollen - For those who grow corn, the yield is typically based on bushels per acre, mulching the rest of the plant making silage for animals. For the Navajo people, the best yield from the crop is corn pollen used for daily prayers. In traditional homes, look carefully at the threshold of the door facing East. You will see the remnants of years of faithful prayer coloring the soil. The beautiful beaded pollen bag provides a visual clue to the importance of *tadííin* in the practice of morning prayer. Corn pollen comes from the tassels of a mature corn plant, and typically collected by a female. It is then blessed and used by all as the primary means of communicating with the Navajo Holy People.

When our lifestyle, skin color or region vary, so does our core understanding of what is weed and what is wheat. The dream of freedom to a Navajo person is different than to a Black or Hispanic person. What seems helpful in one culture doesn't always translate well into another culture. Judging whole ethnicities based on ‘my experience’ is not only self-centered, but deeply flawed.

The Navajo people have a beautiful tradition and lifestyle which they have no reason to change. Their spirituality and understanding of community is life-giving (*K'é*). The collective wisdom of the elders is honored and sustains whole clans through good times and bad.

Why would the proud and ambitious **Diné** (Navajo) people want to change to ‘your way?’ Why is it that we humans belittle the ways of others, assuming the other doesn't have convictions, faith or purpose of their own? Why do we target certain neighborhoods or skin colors as ‘less than’ when even a small amount of openness and curiosity would reveal the devastating impact of assuming those different than us are weeds, not wheat?

Navajo Lutheran Mission is a place-holder between cultures, colors, ideologies, laws, government pressures and outside expectations - a free and open space where 'being Navajo' is not only valued, but protected from a past which was meant for harm. Our days are full, learning from each other and living faithful and generous lives as this community has been created to be - Navajo. Some days we are wheat, some weeds. But all is useful to understanding each other and the God who created us.

Our job is not the job of judge; we're not up for that! Our faithful work is to come to Christ Jesus and hang on with all our heart. His job is first to save us, weeds that we are, and then to judge us the wheat his salvation has granted us be. Thanks be to God!

We'll welcome your visit. Bring an open heart and let this place restore in you the gift of **Hózhó** (living in a holistic environment of beauty, balance, harmony and well-being).

The parable of the weeds and wheat was our lectionary text on July 19. An aspect of the “power” of God's Word is how it can be translated in different cultural settings beside the First-century Middle Eastern culture. Here we have Pastor Kate Adelman translating this well-known parable into the Navajo culture!

Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Update

-Teresa Ahrenholz, RIC Team chair

July was a productive month for the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Team. We began our education sessions (via Zoom) on July 14. Our first topic was understanding sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression; July 21 we watched (and discussed) 5 short videos from Lutherans who are LGBTQIA+ as they talked about who they are and how they express themselves; on July 28 we watched 5 short videos from LGBTQIA+ Lutheran Pastors; and rounding out the sessions on August 4, we talk about “What Happens Now? Continuing our Journey” which is a discussion on what we as a congregation should do once we are officially recognized as a RIC congregation.

We welcome all LCR members to tune in for our Zoom sessions. We’ve had around 10 people (not including the RIC Team) join and share their thoughts with us. If you’re uncomfortable with your “face” on Zoom, you can join without video. If you want to share thoughts or comments you are welcome to do so or you don’t have to say a word. It’s completely up to you with however you are comfortable.

Did you know there are no RIC recognized Lutheran churches within 25 miles of our zip code of 45255? The closest Lutheran RIC recognized church is in Dayton, OH. This means that LCR will be first in our area to be a safe worship space for LGBTQIA+ people who are looking for an accepting church where they and their families can worship.

Since 1974, Reconciling Works: Lutherans for Full Participation (an independent, Lutheran, membership-supported organization) has advocated for the full welcome, inclusion, and equity of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and asexual/aromantic (LGBTQIA+) Lutherans in all aspects of the life of their Church congregation and community.

Reconciling Works’ Reconciling in Christ (RIC) program is for congregations and other Lutheran organizations that publicly welcome LGBTQIA+ people. As you are all aware, LCR is on the journey to becoming a RIC community. This means we will be listed on Reconciling Works’ website and LCR will have the RIC logo on our website. The LGBTQIA+ community looks for the RIC logo before they consider where to visit/worship. They know a RIC church will accept them for who they are.

LCR is one step closer to becoming RIC! Over the past year, the RIC Team has met and developed a “welcome statement”. I know what you’re thinking, we at LCR already know we are welcoming so what’s the big deal about having a written statement? The answer is, yes, we know we are welcoming, but the LGBTQIA+ person sitting in Anderson Township, Amelia, Batavia, Loveland, etc., doesn’t have a clue that we would welcome them. It’s like Jesus says, “no one lights a lamp and hides it in a jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, he puts it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light”. We have to let people know – it is part of becoming RIC.

The RIC Team submitted the welcome statement to church council and on Sunday, July 12, LCR’s welcome statement was approved! You will find it below and also on LCR’s website under About Us/All Are Welcome.

We welcome all people created in the image of God, Creator of the universe inclusive of:
race, culture, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression;
relationship or social status; abilities or disabilities;
outcast or stranger; typical or atypical skills;
how the world describes you or you describe yourself.

We invite those sure in who they are, those still seeking and those looking for a church that believes in a loving, non-judgmental, safe, inclusive, grace-filled God and a beloved community that reflects those values.

Because God loves us unconditionally, we share our Christian love through acceptance, inclusion and understanding. We welcome you to share yourself, your time and talents with the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, a part of God’s universal Church. God made each of us unique and we share our diversity here.

ALL are welcome in this place.

The next step in the RIC process is to proclaim our welcome (on our website, wherever appropriate) and let Reconciling Works know by filling out the RIC Profile survey. The Team is working on the survey and we are hopeful to have the RIC process completed by late August/early September. We won’t be able to celebrate as we would pre-COVID19, but we can still feel joy within our hearts for this accomplishment, and once we can be together, we’ll put on our rainbows and celebrate!



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you for the emails and cards that I received with your prayers, love, support, and sympathy for me and my sister Elaine. Words cannot express how grateful I am for your caring. Elaine has ended her journey here. She was small but mighty and fought the good fight but she is now resting in that Mansion that Jesus prepared for her 73 years ago. We celebrated her life with joy, music, fellowship and good food along with our grief.

Blessing to you all and thanks again for the support.

Ellen Harris



With Sympathy: We mourn with former members, **Erv & Marie Streng**, on the death of their daughter, Karen Streng.

Birth: We celebrate with **Joe & Lauren Keipper** on the birth of their daughter, **Lenna Celeste Keipper**.

Engagement: We celebrate with **Cindy & Pastor Zorn** the engagement of their daughter **Rebecca, to Ken Van Esbeek**. They will marry on September 15 in Gibraltar and reside in Brussels, Belgium.



INSTRUCTIONS FOR DONATING STOCKS TO LCR

Morgan Stanley DTC Instructions for The Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

Morgan Stanley LLC
DTC #0015

For the benefit of:

Account Name: The Lutheran Church of the
Resurrection

Account Number: 816-022106-348

Sending Firm: Please disclose the Donor
Information for All Donations.

Please notify Stephen Ashworth at Morgan Stanley
with any questions or problems at 513 562-8339 or
Stephen.Ashworth@Morganstanley.com

DISASTER RELIEF TRIP 2020: STAYIN' HOME!

The Coronavirus pandemic has claimed yet another victim! It seems far too difficult and risky to plan to travel anywhere for our annual disaster relief effort this year. However, under the category of silver linings and making lemonade out of lemons, there will be a disaster relief "trip" this year! It will take place at Lutheran Church of the Resurrection the week of **October 11**. Our team decided to move the week up from the traditional first week of November to take advantage of good weather.

The "trip" will be coordinated by Curt Martel and Mark Meyer. There are many projects around our church that we have talked about addressing for many years. Curt and Mark are aware of them and will be assembling a work list. A planning meeting will take place in August. It is preferred that volunteers be available to work the entire week together as this enables a team spirit to develop, however, if there is a certain project that a volunteer would like to work on, that will be acceptable. Another way that members can serve as volunteer is to provide lunch. For those who prefer not to travel to distant places for disaster relief work, this may be your year to volunteer. As Curt and Mark begin to work through the details of the effort, they will be communicated. Don't hesitate to reach out to them if you have questions.



Southern Ohio Synod Response to Racism

In response to 401 years of white supremacy in the United States and its predecessor colonies that continue to divide our communities, The Southern Ohio Synod, which believes we are stronger and better together, condemns white supremacy, white privilege, and racism as sin that must be addressed by our church and society.

As the Southern Ohio Synod, we seek to join Jesus in the restoration of the world by first confessing our sin, brokenness, and separation from God:

- We confess our complicity in racism and white supremacy through our direct actions and our silence that allows evil to exist in the world. Racism is not only a sin against our neighbor but a sin against God. Our world is imprisoned to the sin of racism and we ask God to guide us toward freedom (Luke 4:18).
- We confess that we—Southern Ohio Synod, comprised of congregations, a seminary, colleges, campus ministries, and social ministry organizations--live in broken relationships with our neighbors because of the divisions of race that we have failed to correct. “Because we are sinners as well as saints, we rebuild walls broken down by Christ. We fall back into enslaving patterns of injustice.”
- We confess that many of our stories, our culture, our celebrations are riddled with racist ideas, concepts, and origins. “A wall of hostility stands intact. Captive on one side of the wall, people with access to opportunities and institutions are largely unaware either of their own cultural biases or the worth of other cultures. On the other side of the wall, people scarred by slavery and other forms of degradation and suffering have seen their cultures ridiculed and reviled, or destroyed.”
- We were called by the ELCA “into a season of confession and lamentation” in the summer of 2019. This requires us to “move beyond empty promises or well-meaning intentions” and recommit “to the work of racial justice, socioeconomic equity, and racial reconciliation.”

As a Synod, we encourage all the congregations and ministries in our territory to ask God to forgive us and guide us into repentance where we acknowledge the broken world.

As the Southern Ohio Synod,

- We condemn the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tamir Rice, John Crawford, Henry Green, Julius Tate Jr., and many others in our community and throughout the country who were killed at the hands of law enforcement. Killing of kin is sin (Gen 4).
- We condemn institutions and systems that place profit over the health and safety of our black and brown neighbors (2 Corinthians 8:13-15).
- We condemn any and all racist assumptions and stereotypes that continue to persist in the medical and legislative communities.

As Church together, we ask God to help and guide us in joining Jesus in the restoration of the world:

- We recognize that different ideas exist on the solutions to the racism that plagues our communities. However, as a predominantly white/European descent denomination we commit ourselves to listen to the voices who have been harmed and silenced by racism.
- We acknowledge that voices from those we have marginalized can agitate, challenge, and lead to uncomfortable conversations. As a Synod, we commit to listening and sitting with the discomfort instead of rejecting calls for God’s justice that challenge our sin (Luke 4:14-30).
- We support public policies that will invest in healthy and safe communities for everyone. We encourage transformational and bold thinking that will put people and communities first. As a Synod we commit to work through local, state, and national advocacy efforts to support public policies that seek justice in our world.

We call for the uplifting of black and brown leaders in our church, in our ministries, and in our communities. As a Synod, joining Jesus in the restoration of the world, we will seek to tear down oppression and lift up those who have been oppressed by racial injustice for far too long (Luke 1:46-53).

In-Person Pastoral Visitation

-Pastor Nicole and Pastor Zorn

As the pandemic drags on and physical isolation continues, we wanted you to know that we are open to safe pastoral visits with any members who so desire. These visits can be done safely outdoors at church, at your home, in a park or any other safe setting. At church, we have found it convenient to meet outside of the fellowship hall under the overhang or in the Memorial Garden. Clearly, there are many other places we could meet. If you would like general conversation, prayer, pastoral care, or private Holy Communion we are willing to provide that. Be aware that we are each trying to discern how to spend some time with family in August. It could be that we are being more intentional about isolation leading up to those visits, so it might take a bit of time to plan a visit with church members. All in all, we can surely work those details out.

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OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Lutheran Church of the Resurrection strives to be:
A COVENANT based congregation, NURTURING spiritual growth and
WELCOMING all into Christ's community through
Word, sacrament and love.



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