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News & Views

May 2020

Staying Connected

Given current events, there isn't much "news" for our newsletter these days.
Instead, we offer you these greetings and reflections from our Pastors
and a few members of our Church Council.





From The Reverends Nowak

**How are you doing? How are we doing?
What do you need?**

Maybe this is a question you're getting tired of hearing. "How are you doing?" Maybe you're also getting tired of hearing: "Stay healthy." "Stay home." "Stay safe." Or some other variations of these, knowing they are not being said in ordinary times, but because we are living in the times of a global pandemic. And, maybe you haven't been able to face the reality of the question because you're too busy living or just getting by, doing everything needed to get through each day. Believe me, we get it...

But also, how are you doing!?

We miss you. We miss hearing what is going on in your daily lives, your weeks; your prayer requests even when you feel they seem "petty." We miss that handshake at the door and hearing if and how the worship service that we so carefully crafted fed you as you begin a new week. We miss knowing how you all are doing so easily. Sure, we get snippets of your lives over the phone, during zoom gatherings, and through emails and texts, but, as you know, it's just not the same!

How are you doing? As in, how have you been feeling? What has your primary emotion(s) been? Where do you find joy? What induces stress or despair within you? What has been encouraging to you? What is unsettling? How have the services that we have been able to create fed you or encouraged you? Or, what have you found yourself hungering for spiritually or emotionally? How are we doing? Yes, this is our first pandemic as pastors. But, we're still here, as your pastors, ready to serve.

So, what do you need? In this crisis, we all have different needs; some are more basic some are more emotional, but all of them are needs of people deeply cared for by God. And so, we want to know. Knowing your lives and your needs inspires our actions and prayers and also informs how we put worship together...because we do that for you, our community! So, if you have a moment, let us know: How are you doing? How are we doing? What do you need?

God's Peace,

Pr Sarah & Pr Bob

Congrats!
**CELEBRATING
OUR GRADS!**
Are you or someone in your family graduating from High School or College this Spring? Let us know so we can celebrate them in our prayers and future communications!
Email their name, school, and future plans to
prsarah@pvlcelca.org.



These days are certainly uncharted waters for us all. Our days at home are filled with work, play, e-learning, entertainment, exercise, and worship. One of the more notable things to me is our desire to still be together as an extended family, neighborhood and congregation. We have found ways to reach out and still “be” with each other. How many of us even knew that Zoom existed 2 months ago?

Our congregation has the opportunity to still see each other and worship together even though we are scattered. We email and call relatives that we really might not have reached out in our busy days in the past. Our immediate neighbors have started a group kitchen as soups, cakes and other food are left at each other's doors. That has never happened before. Our walks through the neighborhood involve constant weaving around the other neighbors who are out for some air too. People we have never met before say hello as if we have known each other for years.

When we are apart, we realize how much we want to be together. We could easily sing “Bind Us Together” from our *With One Voice* Blue Hymnal (number 748 if you have it)! I hope that in all this we can see we are all bound together as the hymn tells us.

Best to all!

Jon

**Bind Us Together, Lord, Bind Us Together
With Cords That Cannot Be Broken
Bind Us Together, Lord, Bind Us Together
Bind Us Together In Love**

**There Is Only One God, There Is Only One King
There Is Only One Body, That Is Why We Sing.**

- WOV 748





Alan Zimmermann

Ten random reflections.

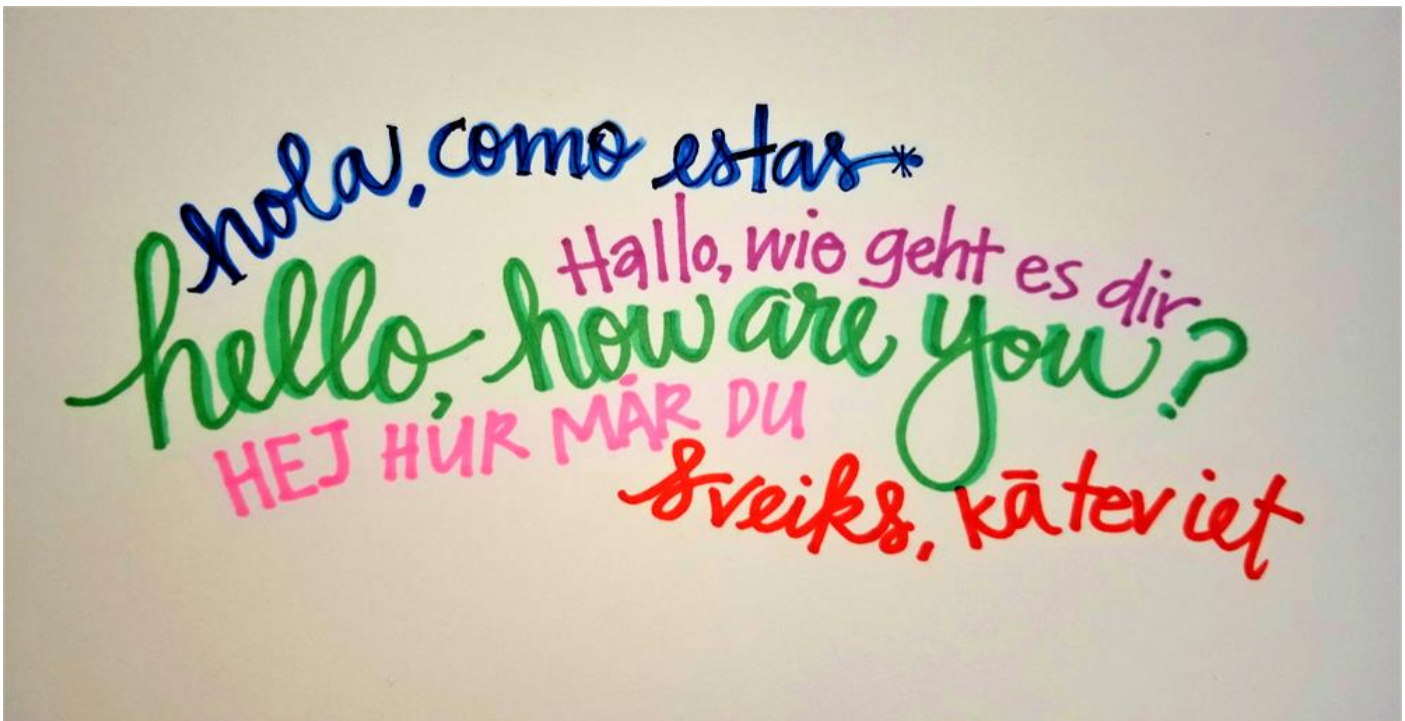
Because there were 10 tribes of Israel, Jesus had 10 disciples, etc.

- I never did grocery store pickup before; the grocery store people actually DO pick out good produce for you, it's a win-win!
- How many e-book formats does the public library have? Does anybody really know? Libby, EPUB, protected pdf, oh well... I'll never understand them all, but I'm glad they're there.
- I miss seeing everyone, but I know that it's the best thing for everyone right now.
- If you leave your car parked long enough, you can feel the flat spots on your tires when you first drive away. Well, only if the sound of your rusted brake rotors doesn't overwhelm your senses.
- The only constant is change. Well, that, and God's love of all.
- Why is gas so cheap when I have nowhere to go? Wait, is this that supply and demand thing they talked about in school?
- Several years ago I realized that "the good ol' days" aren't gonna ever come back, but it sure is good to remember them.
- Three ZOOM gatherings in one day is too many.
- Some days are sunny and nice. Some days are cloudy and nice. Some days are rainy and nice.
- Oops, wait, there are 12 tribes of Israel, Jesus had 12 disciples, etc. I guess I'd better have one more reflection.
- Random reflections are not error free.



So, remembering that everyone is our neighbor, we want to greet our neighbors. Social distancing and masks might make us feel that it is difficult to interact. All we really need to remember is to say, "Hello, how are you?" from 6 feet away or with a smile across the street. With technology we can see each other safely on FaceTime or Zoom, send a note by text or email, but we can also resurrect the often forgotten art of letter writing. However we choose to communicate...remember to choose to communicate and interact safely!

Hello, how are you? - In this ever-changing world, we can virtually interact around the world, with our neighbors or our church family... Try it in a few different languages:



Thank you to Pastor Sarah for sharing the resources from Sparkhouse for Family Sunday School. The lesson materials will be available to churches through Trinity Sunday, June 7, 2020 so take advantage of this opportunity to share with your family the lessons for the day. Pastor Sarah has also been busy interacting with the youth and playdates with the younger ones so join in the fun. Just remember to say "Hello, how are you?" and you are on your way to interacting and connecting with your neighbors! Oh, try this one - Talofa o a mai oe.



Hi PVLC Family!

I'm not usually one to pass along anonymously written Facebook posts, but I thought the following shared an important message about what we are all going through. I can't wait to see you in person!

WE ARE NOT IN THE SAME BOAT ...

I heard that we are all in the same boat, but it's not like that. We are in the same storm, but not in the same boat. Your ship could be shipwrecked and mine might not be.

Or vice versa.

For some, quarantine is optimal. A moment of reflection, of re-connection, easy in flip flops, with a cocktail or coffee. For others, this is a desperate financial & family crisis.

For some that live alone they're facing endless loneliness. While for others it is peace, rest & time with their mother, father, sons & daughters.

With the \$600 weekly increase in unemployment some are bringing in more money to their households than they were working. Others are working more hours for less money due to pay cuts or loss in sales.

Some families of 4 just received \$3400 from the stimulus while other families of 4 saw \$0.

Some were concerned about getting a certain candy for Easter while others were concerned if there would be enough bread, milk and eggs for the weekend.

Some want to go back to work because they don't qualify for unemployment and are running out of money. Others want to kill those who break the quarantine.

Some are home spending 2-3 hours/day helping their child with online schooling while others are spending 2-3 hours/day to educate their children on top of a 10-12 hour workday.

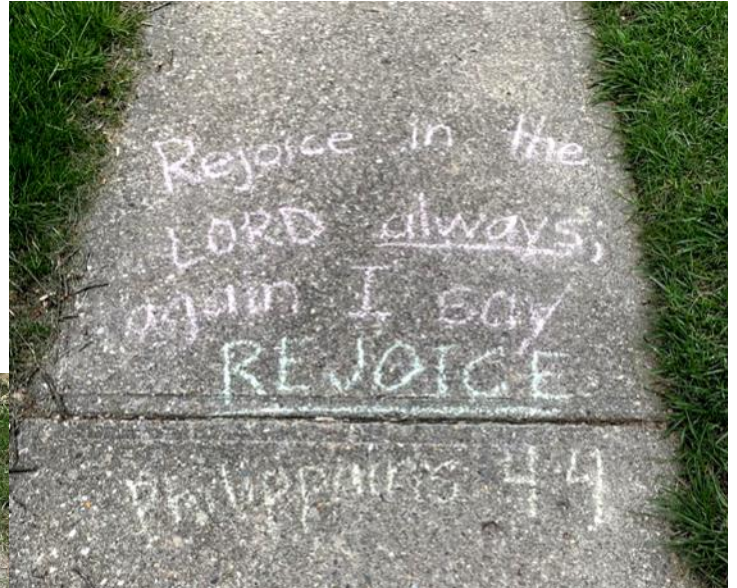
Some have experienced the near death of the virus, some have already lost someone from it and some are not sure if their loved ones are going to make it. Others don't believe this is a big deal.

Some have faith in God and expect miracles during this 2020. Others say the worst is yet to come.

So, friends, we are not in the same boat. We are going through a time when our perception and needs are completely different. Each of us will emerge, in our own way, from this storm. It is very important to see beyond what is seen at first glance. Not just looking, actually seeing. We are all on different ships during this storm experiencing a very different journey.

May 2020

One of my neighbors
lifted my spirits by writing
Biblical messages on
our sidewalks.



What a creative and
thoughtful way to
share God's word !



May 2020

March/April Attendance

Date	Attendance
3/1	9am- 15 11am- 22
3/8	9am- 11 11am- 25 3pm- 12
3/15	10am- 25
4/9 Maundy Thurs.	12 on Zoom
4/12 Easter	44 on Zoom
4/26	20 on Zoom

March/April Giving

Month	Giving
March Total	\$28,840.52
April (as of 4/20)	\$6,180.20



- 4 Jessica Simmons
- 7 Allie Nicholson
- 8 Jan Strandjord
- 8 Sonia Simmons
- 10 Brooklyn Beachler
- 11 Emma Beck
- 12 Jeff Weust
- 15 Deon Worrel
- 15 Zach Lafuse
- 19 Jon Stolz

Current Connections

We're working hard to stay connected with everyone in our community in the ways that are best for them, but our system isn't perfect! Check out this list of our connections. If there is something you would like to receive but currently are not, let us know so we can work on changing that!

Email: Weekly prayers, "Saints" announcements and resources, worship information

Mail: weekly service bulletins, announcements, prayers, resources (sent primarily to those who have previously requested printed newsletters)

Zoom: Worship, play-dates, youth hangouts, Quarantine Quandaries discussion group

Youtube: Worship videos and song playlists

Social Media- Facebook and Twitter: Regular postings

Giving: Online at pvlcelca.org or send in the mail