



Pleasant View Lutheran Church
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Indianapolis, IN 46260
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News & Views

August 2020

The church of Christ, in ev'ry age
beset by change, but Spirit-led,
must claim and test its heritage
and keep on rising from the dead.

ELW 729.

From The Reverends Nowak



Our Perspective: The Fifth Commandment

Congregations all over our country and all over the world are handling and processing the current times we find ourselves in almost as many ways as there are churches! There are congregations, much like ourselves, who are deciding to continue to not gather in person for the time being. There are others who have decided to gather in person as if there is no pandemic happening. Then there are a variety of others who are deciding something in the middle: gathering with distancing, singing/no singing/less singing, masks/no masks/masks recommended but not required, outdoor services, radio services in the church parking lot, shortened services, and many, many more variations. This article is in no way a condemnation of how other congregations have elected to worship right now, nor is it an endorsement of their choices. It is merely meant as a reflection from your pastors to the people of Pleasant View.

Do we want to be worshipping back in church? Of course we do! We want to be belting out hymns played on the organ together; we want to be placing the bread in each of your hands at the Lord's Supper; we want to be sharing faith and giggles with the youngest (and oldest!) among us. So, why not? Why not do what we want? Why not claim "religious freedom" and lift up the "riskiness" of Christian worship that we know was always there anyway? Folks have certainly gathered to worship in other extreme circumstances. Why not now?

Well, there are many reasons, but the 5th Commandment has been on our minds these days. "You shall not murder." This probably seems extreme at first. Upon first thought it would be easy to not see or get the connection, but here's Luther's explanation of the 5th Commandment: "We are to fear and love God, so that we neither endanger nor harm the lives of our neighbors, but instead help and support them in all of life's needs."

Luther didn't see this as an extreme commandment talking about only the violent act of murder, but an overall command to do all we can to look after the total well-being of all who are our "neighbors" (that's everyone!) How does this apply today? It is unfortunately still not possible to gather without the risk of endangering the lives of our neighbors. Yes, we want to gather out of love for God and our desire to show that love through our worship. But, through this commandment God tells us how we can show that love: by not endangering others. Maybe it's not the way we want to show our love, but it's the way God asks us to.

Yes, this issue is unfortunately becoming "political" and you may be feeling pulled to take the "side" where your friends and family are, but we urge you to stand firm in your faith. Until we know harm cannot come to others through our worship, why willfully disobey our Lord's command—especially since we have technology that wasn't available for the trials of the past which allows us to worship in a way that still shows our love of God and love of neighbor? By the grace of God, we'll get through this together!

In Christ,

Pr Sarah & Pr Bob



The “Dear Church” Book Group is underway! We meet each Wednesday evening at 7pm on Zoom to discuss the next chapter in the book. Let a pastor know if you would like to join in!

Keep your eyes open for more info on Zoom Events for Youth & Kiddos this month!
(We know schedules are getting busier, but we'll still try to find times to gather!)

Come and join in on the conversation, as we talk about our faith and theology in light of the pandemic and current events!
All are welcome!

Quarantine Quandaries

August 13th @ 7:00pm
Meeting ID: 963 8686 0630
Password: 08132020

August 27th @ 7:00pm
Meeting ID: 932 2685 0443
Password: 08272020



President's Note

Alan Zimmermann

Greetings fellow PVLC-ers!

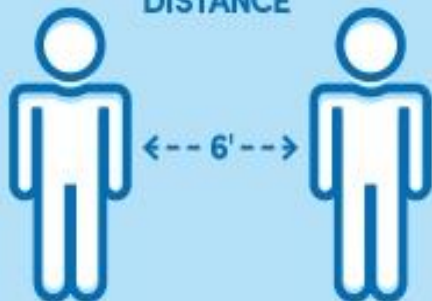
Such unusual times these are. I want to go back to the building for worship, in person with all of you. But sometimes, we don't do what we want. Instead, we get to do what's best. At our last congregation council meeting, we decided to continue meeting virtually for the foreseeable future. Moving forward, council will continue to evaluate the effects of the novel virus in the Indy metro area. Feel free to let council or pastors know of any questions you may have.

We are in this pandemic for the long haul. At the governor's press briefing recently, a pediatrician noted that back in April we stayed at home and social distanced in order to flatten the curve for healthcare, and now we need to limit our activities, social distance, and mask up for kids. That is, to limit virus spread and provide the best opportunity for schools to have some form of in-person learning. We are in this for the long haul. There will be more ups and downs. There won't be a "new normal", just the "next normal". Through the ups and downs, we look forward to being the church, with virtual worship and meetings!

Recently I had to go to the dentist, who asked me, "So, have you picked up any new hobbies in the pandemic?" I had to say, well no, I'm just doing the same hobbies more! The best 'hobby' I have is long walks with my wife, which are now both longer and more frequent. Another hobby is reading, and I'm reading more. Reading more fits well with our upcoming "Dear Church" Book Group, which will have met once by the time this newsletter is in your mailbox. Even if you missed the first session feel free to join next time, you can find details elsewhere in this newsletter. Has anyone started a new hobby?

Alan Z.

SOCIAL
DISTANCE



WASH YOUR
HANDS



FEEL SICK?
STAY HOME!

WEAR A
FACE MASK





Zoom Worship: Sundays @ 10am

You are invited to join us for Online/Phone Worship and Fellowship! You are welcome to invite friends & family!

The login information stays the same each week for worship services. Please join in from wherever you happen to be!

Link: <https://zoom.us/j/2171974317?pwd=c0V2TExzQWlmd09PQkxhOE1ZUEZmdz09>

Meeting ID: 217 197 4317

Password: 02261844

Join by phone (audio only): +1 929 205 6099

Q: How exactly do I “join by phone” for a Zoom gathering?

Step 1. Dial 1 929 205 6099

Step 2. When prompted to enter the meeting ID, enter on the keypad the meeting ID number 217 197 4317

Step 3. If prompted for a host or participant ID, simply press the pound key: #

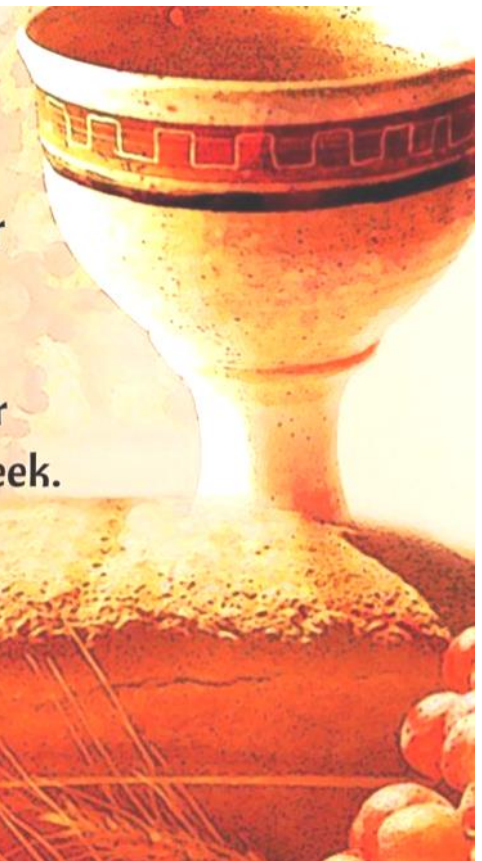
Step 4. When prompted to enter the password, enter on the keypad the password 02261844

Note: If you're told the meeting hasn't started yet, it's best to just hang up and try again

Holy Communion

We are sharing in the meal of Holy Communion together during our Zoom worship services, but if, for whatever reason, that does not work for you, Pr Bob and Pr Sarah are doing a limited number of socially-distanced outdoor Communion visits with those who request them each week.

Please call the church (317-253-0872) or one of the pastors if you would like a communion visit or you want more information.





Greetings from Outreach! There are no official activities happening this month, unfortunately. We will ask for prayers to continue for our refugee family. And in September, we will provide information on the virtual Crop Walk.

Dave and I continue to donate groceries weekly to the Fay Biccard Glick Neighborhood Center. We encourage any of you who are able, to help out our neighbors through any food bank. We will continue to publish some options. And The Glick Center always needs volunteers. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday, between 12:00 and 5:00, they need 1 or 2 people to deliver donations to homes. On Tuesday and Thursday, also between 12:00 and 5:00, they need 1-3 people to help distribute donations to folks who come to the Center. They are located on 71st Street just west of Michigan Road. Give them a call if you can help: 317-293-2600.

In the meantime, stay safe and well as we navigate the coronavirus environment.

- Kathy

Local Food Pantries and Kitchens Need Your Support!

As you are able, and as the Spirit moves you, we urge you to support these local programs feeding our neighbors:

CICOA (Aging and In-Home Solutions) Donate here: <https://cicoa.org/support/donate-now/>

Pike Township Red Zone Food Pantry. Donate here:
<https://pike-ef.org/give/pike-red-zone-food-pantry-donations/>

Lutheran Child and Family Services, The Sharing Place food pantry. Donate here:
<http://lutheranfamily.org/donate.html>

Wheeler Mission. Donate here: <https://wheelermission.org/donate-to-wheeler/>

Crooked Creek Food Pantry. Donate here: <https://www.ccfpindy.org/donations>

Glick Neighborhood Center. Donate here: <https://www.faybiccardglickcenter.org/donate>



GENERAL INFORMATION

More information about public assistance and the state's response to COVID-19 can be found at <http://www.state.in.us/dhs/2403.htm>.

NATIONAL SUICIDE HOTLINE

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is a 24/7, toll-free hotline available to anyone in suicidal crisis or emotional distress. Call 800-273-8255 for support or go to <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat/>.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE

The National Domestic Violence Hotline can be reached at 800-799-7233. You can chat online with an advocate at www.thehotline.org or text LOVEIS to 22522.

FARMER CRISIS HOTLINE

Farmers who are facing challenges during the pandemic can contact Farm Aid at 800-FARM-AID. More resources can be found at the National Farmers Union's Farm Crisis Center at <https://farmcrisis.nfu.org/>.

COVID-19 COMMUNITY RESOURCES Indiana

UNEMPLOYMENT

Federal legislation has made unemployment benefits available to workers who may not have qualified before. To learn more and to apply, visit <https://www.in.gov/dwd/3474.htm>.



SNAP

For more information on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits in Indiana, visit <https://www.in.gov/fssa/dfr/2691.htm>. To apply for SNAP benefits and other public benefits in Indiana, visit <https://fssabenefits.in.gov/bp/#/>.



UTILITIES ASSISTANCE

Energy assistance programs are administered by community action agencies. Visit <https://www.in.gov/ihcda/files/Local%20Intake%20Sites%20by%20County%202019-2020.pdf> to find your local office. Contact your local office to apply or apply online by visiting <https://ihcda.azurewebsites.us/portal/>



RENT AND EVICTIONS

Federal law has placed a moratorium on evictions from certain properties, including those backed by federal mortgages through Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. To learn more, visit https://larsen.house.gov/uploadedfiles/covid_toolkit_3.30.20.pdf. This, however, does not apply to most private residences. For rental assistance and housing help, visit <https://www.hud.gov/states/indiana>.



NUTRITION FOR WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN

Information about WIC can be found at <https://www.in.gov/isdh/19691.htm>. To apply, call the WIC clinic location nearest to your residence. Visit <https://www.in.gov/isdh/20424.htm> to find the WIC clinic closest to you. Federal law has waived the requirement for applicants to appear in person. Check with your local office to verify the application process.



CHILD CARE

Information about child care assistance can be found at <https://www.in.gov/fssa/carefinder/3900.htm>.



ELCA World Hunger
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

PVLC Council Meeting Virtual Meeting 07/20/2020

Present: Alan Z., Amber S., Bob S., Jane B., Jennifer M., Jon S., Kathy H., Karen M., Pr. Bob N., Pr. Sarah N.; Sonia S.

Devotion: Alan Z.: God Pause: I Kings 3

Good News and Gratitude

- Tree trimming and removal
- Thanks to Charlie for noticing running water while doing lock up (water softener leaking) and corrected the issue.
- Excited about the book group
- Tutoring with a wonderful outcome scoring 5 on AP stats test
- Margaret and Bob's 35th anniversary July 20th
- Margaret and Bob's grandchild gender reveal– Due in Feb.

Agenda

1. COVID-19 Review and Discussion

- Insurance review of recommendations for reopening
 - Mask requirement
 - Cleaning requirement
 - Signage to remind people distance, masks, etc.
 - Planning for Future and Liability
- Reviewed data for Hamilton and Marion County
 - Discussion PVLC on opening in-person
 - When the decision to come back together occurs, will make streaming service available
 - Will purchase better audio equipment for streaming
- Consensus: continue Zoom/virtual worship and gatherings.
 - Council will continue to evaluate but at this time no in person worship services.
 - When in-person worship/gatherings do resume, a 2-week notification will be communicated through both email and postal mail
- Tenants:
 - Latvian Lutheran Congregation request to return
 - Discussion of the requirements for returning
 - Contract update discussion
 - Cleaning schedule and safety of employee
 - Schedule a meeting to gain a better understanding and come to agreement
 - DBSA: Currently are not meeting. Attendance was low.
 - Quilters: have come into get supplies and followed mask and distance requirements

-Tenants Continued....

- A Children's Habitat (ACH):
 - Pending parent response to have final numbers of students
 - Attendance has reduced
 - Planning on virtual and in-person options
 - Working with PVLC on how to best adhere to r requirements and guidelines

2. Policy updates:

- The children's protection policy and harassment policy to be sent to council for one last review

Committee's Report

1. Pastor's Report- Pr. Sarah

- ACH: Bonnie - New Director of Operation
- ACH in process of hiring head of school
- Children Play dates, youth zoom get together, and Quarantine Quandaries
- Book Club: Dear Church

2. Finance – Jane B.

- Water bill increased from May to June discussion
 - Water softener issue
 - At this time the water softener is bypassed

3. Education – Bob S.

- Virtual Sunday School
- Update on all education activities

4. Outreach – Kathy H.

- Encourage to donate to local pantry

5. Facility – Jon S.

- Tree trimming and removal update
- Parking lot update
 - Filling
 - Drainage issues under discussion and strategy to fix remaining issues

6. Worship – Jennifer M.

- Authorize Pastors to purchase new audio/visual equipment to lead virtual worship
- Madelin's pay rate request and discussion
 - Add an amendment to her contract about the pay reduction per her request.

7. Communications – Karen M.

- Newsletter: Monday July 27th @ midnight deadline - send to Karen M.

Motion to adjourn: Jane B.

Second: Jennifer M.

All in Favor: Unanimous

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting: Monday August 17th @ 6:30pm

The following is a motion and vote through email dated July 23, 2020:

Motion: Pastor Bob Nowak moved to offer The Latvian Lutheran Church (LLC) a two-month credit on their rent, that would be applied to the months of August 2020 and September 2020. Effective October 1, 2020, The Latvian Lutheran Church is granted a 50% rent reduction for the duration of months that LLC does not use the PVLC facility for worship or functions. Upon the Latvian Lutheran Church's return to the PVLC Facility for worship/functions, they agree to resume paying the full agreed upon monthly rental amount. If the Latvian Lutheran Church were to return to the PVLC facility before October 2020, the 50% rent reduction would not be necessary, and The Latvian Lutheran Church would be responsible to pay the full monthly rental amount beginning with October 2020. If the duration of months LLC does not gather at PVLC exceeds what either party feels is a reasonable amount of time, the 50% rent reduction agreement may be revisited and renegotiated to better reflect the arrangement and needs.

Second: Jennifer M.

All in Favor: 10 out of 13

No response: 3

Date	Attendance
7/5	18 (Zoom)
7/12	22 (Zoom)
7/19	26 (Zoom)
7/26	16 (Zoom)
7/17 Offering Count : \$ 6308.00 Online Giving as of 7/17: \$ 1872.35	

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS!

13th: Megan Silence

14th: Karen Brown

15th: Jim Shella

30th: Alan Zimmermann

31st: Mike Hohl