

Pleasant View Lutheran Church
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June 2021

News & Views

From Pleasant View Lutheran Church
Indianapolis, IN



From The Pastors

"If you are fully vaccinated, you can start doing the things that you had stopped doing because of the pandemic.... We have all longed for this moment when we can get back to some sense of normalcy."

– CDC Director, Rochelle Walensky, May 13, 2021

After 14 long months, for many, these words offered a sense of renewed hope and encouragement. Now does this announcement somehow mark the end of this pandemic? Of course not! As the CDC Director also said, we must continue to be cautious and mindful since the updated guidance offered on May 13th pertained to fully vaccinated individuals only. While we do appear to be turning a crucial corner in the fight against COVID-19 and returning to some level of normalcy, our community, like so many others, includes a mix of people who are fully vaccinated and others who are unvaccinated – children, those who have not yet been able to be vaccinated, and some who have opted not to be vaccinated.

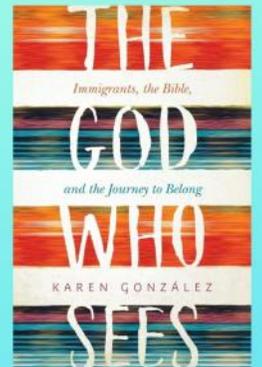
The Ecumenical Protocols for Worship, Fellowship and Sacramental Practices which is comprised of physicians, scholars, theologians, and pastors across Lutheran, United Methodist, & Roman Catholic traditions, perhaps said it best when they wrote the following in response to the CDC guidance for fully vaccinated individuals:

"The latest CDC guidance for masks and social distancing is for what individuals CAN do-- not what congregations (in which both vaccinated and unvaccinated people gather together) SHOULD do.... When we are among those who may be unvaccinated, we recommend being as the unvaccinated for the sake of the unvaccinated-- for their safety, and to avoid stigmatizing them. We are one body in Christ, no more protected than the least protected among us.

Along with guidance from medical professionals, may we also seek guidance in God's own words throughout scripture that repeatedly reminds us to love our neighbor as ourselves, lay down our lives for the sake of others, and to care for the least of these among us. Living amid this pandemic, wearing our mask has been and continues to be among the practical ways we care for one another by showing consideration for the health and safety of our community. As mask mandates are lifted, we give thanks, celebrate, and take ours off when it is appropriate. But, may we also remember that there is sometimes a difference between what we *can* do and what *Love* would lead us to do.

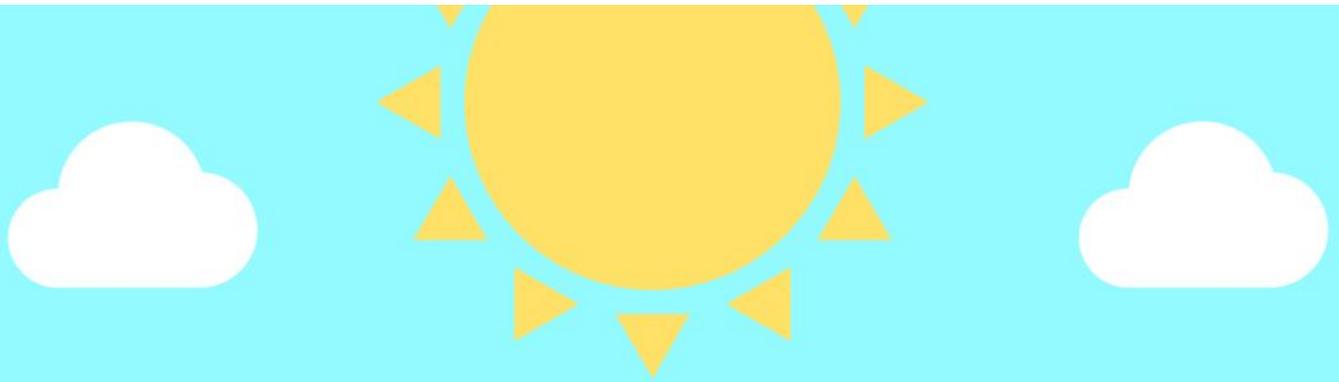
In God's Great Love, Pr Sarah & Pr Bob

**ZOOM
BOOK
GROUP**



**Returning
Wed. June 16, 7pm**

**Our next book will be...
*The God Who Sees:
Immigrants, the Bible,
and the Journey to Belong*
by Karen Gonzalez.
Look for more info on
picking up your book and
joining in the weeks to come.
Questions? Ask Pr Sarah**



JUNE 2021 WORSHIP

Sundays @ 10am
Join in outside at PVLC or on Zoom!

OUTSIDE AT PVLC

Out of hospitality to all gathered, masks are required.

Bring if you can:

- **lawn chair or blanket to sit on**
- **bread & juice for Communion**
- **non-perishable foods and/or diapers to donate**

Will move to Fellowship Hall if rainy or too hot.

ON ZOOM

Meeting ID: 217 197 4317

Password: 02261844

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

**We will also continue to mail bulletins to people who
have requested them. If you want on or off of the
mailing list, just tell a pastor!**

I don't think I realized how much I missed singing with my PVLC brothers and sisters until we had the opportunity to sing together during our outdoor Pentecost service. Even though our voices were a bit muffled behind our masks, we sounded beautiful! Like all of you, I am so glad we will be worshipping together again. Rejoice! Even lawn mowers, chainsaws or leaf blowers won't be able to dampen our enthusiasm.

There are real benefits to worshipping outdoors, including:

- The church isn't a building: Karen Myers likes to remind us of this. We love our church building and respect the dedication and hard work that led to its creation and it's upkeep. But the building at 801 W. 73rd Street isn't our church. It's our building; we are our church.
- Our neighbors know we're here: There is a lot to be said for being seen. Maybe our neighbors will notice us sharing the Good News together? Maybe they'll hear us lifting our voices in song? Maybe this is an opportunity to reach out to our nearest neighbors? (And not just so they don't mow from 10-11 a.m.).
- It's OK to be uncomfortable: I'm a heat wimp -- always have been. Sometimes it's hard to get out of camp chairs. It's a pain to bring a wafer and juice for communion for one person. But then I think of hardships and risks people around the world go through to practice their religions. And being uncomfortable is the best time to lean into our faith. So if I'm too hot under my mask, I'll walk away and take it off for a while. If my bum knee hurts, I'll stay seated (Pastors always say 'stand if you're able'). And if I don't want to bring my own communion supplies, PVLC has plenty (I know because I ordered them!).
- Feeling God around us: OK, so we're in the middle of Indianapolis, but we are blessed with a beautiful outdoor setting. As our most recent book group author Barbara Brown Taylor says, being in nature gives us the opportunity to discover the sacred all around us. We can see it in each other, hear it in chirping birds, feel it in the breeze and smell it in the wonders of bug spray or the scent of our neighbors' newly mown grass!

I look forward to seeing and singing with all who are able to attend worship!

-Jennifer

Confirmation Announcement!
Lewis Myers
5.22.21



KICK-OFF SUMMER BONFIRE SAT. JUNE 19, 5-9PM



With summer approaching we thought it would be fun to have a bonfire on June 19th beginning at 5pm – 9pm. This will give everyone a chance to get outside and enjoy some fun fellowship time. Mask will be required except when eating or drinking. We will have some hotdogs, s'more making and drinks available, but you can bring your own food and drink if you want too.

Bring your family and invite friends, everyone is invited! Bring your blankets and lawn chairs and let us have some fun and fellowship in the outdoors classroom around the bonfire.

If you have questions or would like to help with set up, please contact me, Sonia Simmons at 317-442-5962 or email hoffmas85@sbcglobal.net



June 5: Thomas Horner
June 7: Betty Lundgaard
June 8: Lauren Stolz
June 15: Robert Stratford
June 23: Lewis Myers
June 24: Mark Doctor

Bread for the World—Offering of Letters 2021

Dear Fellow Members of Pleasant View Lutheran Church,

After the celebration of our 175th year as a congregation, we donated over 175 packages of diapers. With God's Work, Our Hands for 2021, we restarted collecting diapers, wipes and dollar donations for the Indiana Diaper Bank. When looking for what poverty looks like in our country, many use the need for diapers and food insecurity as windows into poverty. People are facing eviction, food insecurity and debt as the current economic issues continue. The link between poverty, food prices & hunger is strong. We have talked about "Our neighbors" and have tried to help with our small but mighty church family. We collected, dispersed and have listened to the needs of our neighbors. We have participated in writing letters regarding various legislation to End Child Hunger both here in the United States and abroad.

It is time again to see what more we can do as a group. On the next page of this newsletter, you will find information to provide letters to our elected officials. You and your family can choose to handwrite letters or e-mail letters. The goals of Bread for the World's 2021 Offering of Letters are to make the following requests:

- Make the Child Tax Credit (CTC) in the American Rescue Plan permanent and available to all children regardless of immigration status
- Increase global nutrition funding to \$300 million

Working together as a group, we can move mountains. Please consider writing to your elected officials and request that as a country we continue to stand up and make important strides to end child hunger here and throughout the world. Our goal to write letters is through June 13th. Please e-mail or contact Margaret Stratford (margaretstratford@aol.com or 317 340-9090) with the following info:

- Total Number of letters written as a family or individual
- Name of elected official and number of letters written to that individual

Thank you in advance for your support.

In His Name,

- Margaret Stratford

The link to find your representative:

<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

Information regarding your Indiana State Senators:

Todd Young

185 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
(202) 224-5623

Mike Braun

404 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
(202) 224-4814

The link to email your representative: https://secure.bread.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=401&s_subsrc=website-offering-of-letters-microsite

**Bread for the World 2021 Offering of Letters
SAMPLE LETTER (as of May 20)**

[Date]

Sen. Mike Braun or Sen. Todd Young

Rep. _____

U.S. Senate

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20510

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator _____,

Dear Representative _____,

Hunger is reaching historic levels. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to devastate communities across the United States with a disproportionate impact on Black, Latino, and Native American families, and immigrants, and worsening the effects of hunger and poverty around the globe.

The pandemic has exposed vulnerabilities in our safety net and food systems from farm to fork. And child hunger in both the U.S. and abroad has skyrocketed. Specifically, Congress should:

Make the expansion of the child tax credit in the American Rescue Plan permanent and available to all children regardless of immigration status. The CTC expansion will lift millions of children out of poverty, as well as help reduce hunger and narrow the racial wealth gap exacerbated by unemployment amid COVID-19.

As you determine funding priorities for the fiscal year 2022 Foreign Operations and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, I urge you to increase global nutrition funding to \$300 million.

Now more than ever, my faith calls me to stand alongside impacted people in my community and around the world. Let us work together to ensure U.S. policies help people move out of poverty and feed their families in the U.S. and around the world.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Your Printed Name]

[Your Address]

[City, State, ZIP]

Greetings from Outreach!

There are no official activities happening this month, unfortunately.

Your generous donations of items for the Glick food pantry are greatly appreciated! I took the items that were brought to our May 22 outdoor service to the food bank the following Monday, and you are invited to bring more with you to worship each week in June – the basket will be right by the entrance gate!

As always, if you hear of an opportunity or have an idea where we can send a group of helpers, please do let us know.

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.

We are feeling more hopeful that we will all enjoy gathering together in person this summer. The end of our isolation does appear to be right there on the horizon.

God bless you all!

- Kathy

Local Food Pantries and Kitchens Need Your Support!

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

PVLC Council Meeting Virtual meeting 04/19/2020

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

Devotion: Alan Z.: God Pause:

Good News and Gratitude

- Luke H. coming home from Georgetown for a week
- Last few days of school until summer break, virtual and in person, for several students
- Thomas H. has a summer job at Dart Controls where he interned and is taking calculus at Ivy Tech
- Karen M. had a great trip to Washington state. Her car that had broken down is now fixed.
- Lewis M. graduates middle school and will be confirmed on 5/22/21
- Pr. Bob and Pr. Sarah will soon have their second vaccines
- Happy Constitution Day for Norway (5/17)
- The ELCA installed a transgender bishop in the Sierra Pacific Synod, the Rev. Dr. Megan Rohrer
- We are going back to in-person services!

Agenda

1) COVID-19 Review and Discussion

A: PVLC: Reviewed discussion and decisions from council retreat.

- Will record 5/22 Outdoor Service to test quality/logistics for live streaming worship. Pr. Sarah very hopeful of good quality based on recording of baptism held outdoors.

-June Worship Plans

- Sunday mornings at 10 am
- Outdoors with singings and masks
- Masked announcement during outdoor service
- Zoom option available during outdoor service for those who wish to join virtually (Live Stream via Zoom)
- If inclement weather, worship service will shift to fellowship hall
- If indoors: Masks required with NO group singing

- July PVLC Worship: reassess for indoor worship at next council meeting.

B: Tenants Updates:

- ACH: No New Updates
 - Summer Camp in June & July, 8:00 – 12:00
 - Next school year the school day will run 8:00 – 3:00. ACH has requested daily use of the fellowship hall for lunches to provide for proper social distancing.
- Latvian: Pr. Sarah provided updated document offering 11:30 am worship time on Sundays in the Sanctuary.
 - Document outlines the guidelines for use of sanctuary, kitchen, & fellowship hall.
 - Thank you to both Pastors for their work on updating the document.
 - Pr. Sarah will send to LLC.
- Embroiderer's Group – requesting return
 - Group is 30 – 40 and had used fellowship hall and conference room.
 - Determined group should not be in building at the same time as school, general safety as well as COVID concerns.
 - Offer another time when school is not in session.
 - Request to hold their garage sale in August, using the fellowship hall approved by council.
- DBSA – Monday Evenings support session continues.
 - Leader is updating Pastors frequently how it went and where they were.

Minutes Continue on Next Page....

B: Tenants Updates continued.....

- ELCARM – requesting use of conference room to eat and play cards.
 - Leader indicates most or all are vaccinated.
 - ACH has been consulted and they are okay with the group meeting at the same time as the school.
 - Council approved return in June with the understanding that they may be asked to change day and time of gathering when school is back in session and depending on pandemic status.
 - Will ask them to clean up after themselves – pick up scattered food.
- Other tenants: No updates

2) Committee’s Report

A: Pastor’s Report- Pr. Sarah N.

- June Worship Review
 - Will have extra masks in case someone doesn’t have one.
 - Google sign up for help setting up and tearing down will be sent
- May 22 Outdoor Service at 11:00 am
 - Lewis Meyers will be confirmed
- Baptism coming up in June for a neighbor – Matt Steed
- Book Group: Pr. Sarah is choosing the next book, will resume in June
- Tom M. asked about continuing to pay custodian at pandemic rate (7 hours per week) and when to go back to actual hours.
 - Alan Z. moved and Pr. Sarah seconded that pandemic rate paid through July.
 - Motion passed with 7 approving and one abstention.
- Pastors will take time off May 31 – June 2
- Pastors are going to end the YouTube Worship option, the Synod YouTube worship will still be available.
- Council installation will occur at June 6th worship

- Bread for the World letter writing information will be in the weekly email

B: Finance – Jane B.

- Will count after in-person worship on May 22

C: Fellowship – Sonia S.

- Community campfire to be held June 19.
 - Discussion of how to provide/serve food
 - Let Sonia know if you can help

Newsletter: Tuesday May 25th midnight deadline – Send to Pr. Sarah

Motion to adjourn: Kathy H.

Second: Jennifer M.

All in Favor: Unanimous

Closed with the Lord’s Prayer

Next meeting: Monday June 21st @ 6:30pm

Date	Attendance
May 2	33
May 9	29
May 16	29
May 22	20
May 23	18
Offering (5/22 count) \$12,681 *does not include online giving	