



From the Pastor's Perspective

Monthly Church Events

“You are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.” -Galatians 3:26-27

June is a month of transition, and so I want to use my June article for three different transitions.

First, June is now the time when we have some easing of our quarantine in MN and across the nation. We desperately need to be together, as our spiritual, social and mental health are suffering, not to mention the economic and financial hardship we have been facing. I hear so many people saying how much they miss being together as a church family. God made us for relationship: for relationship with Him and with the others of His children. We have been doing our best to stay connected remotely, and our church has done an amazing job with this! I continue to encourage you each to make full use of the virtual resources our church is providing. AND, continue to share and recommend them to others. This is a way we as a church can reach out to others. But in June, we are going to try worshiping together. We are going to try to have Sunday worship outdoors all of June. Bring a lawn chair, bring a hat, and pray for good weather. Yet I also want to caution us for wanting to gather for the wrong reasons. I know we miss each other. But, worship is not about seeing the people you miss. It's about God! As we gather to worship together, be sure to place your focus on God, and remind yourself that you miss WORSHIPING GOD together. And, we continue to ask everyone to use good judgement and self assessment in deciding to come in worship. Please feel good about staying away if that is wise for you. And if you do come, please practice good hygiene, self protection, and social separation. Let's make it as safe as feasible for everyone. Just because we are trying to gather together again does not mean that there is no longer any danger.

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Daily	Daily Devotional videos posted on social media
Mondays	Morning Men, Prayer Knitters, Comfort Quilters
Fridays	7am Bible Study
June 7th	Graduation Sunday Outdoor Tent Worship Service 10 a.m. * Holy Communion
June 11th	AMT Meeting 6:30 p.m.
June 14th	Confirmation Sunday Outdoor Tent Worship Service 10 a.m. *
June 19th	Unload Food Truck
June 20th	Community Care 6am Set up/ 8am Start
June 21st	Outdoor Tent Worship Service 10 a.m. *
June 28st	Teen Challenge Outdoor Tent Worship Service 10 a.m. *
*	Online worship service at 10 a.m. will continue to be available

Pastor's Perspective Cont'd

Not so! Please continue to pray for all those affected and at risk.

Secondly, we begin summer in the midst of pain, shock, injustice, anger, chaos, and violence. We are shocked at the inhumane treatment and death of George Floyd, a fellow member of our Twin Cities community. We grieve this injustice and cry out to God for healing. We lift up his family in prayer. It is a call for us all to self check how we treat our neighbors who may have different skin color or be in some way different. We ask the Holy Spirit to cleanse us from unfair judgement and to fill our hearts with love. We stand solidly against systemic racism and lift our voice to affirm that "There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you all are one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28) We affirm peaceful protesting. In fact, injustice like this must be protested! But violence is not God's way, nor the way of God's people. And so, although we join in the protest, we call for an end of violence. We want to honor George Floyd's memory, and we do that by respecting our sisters and brothers and their property. We also lift up our police officers in prayer. We thank God for all they do to help and keep our communities safe. So many try so hard to do so much good so much of the time. We bless them! We pray for their protection, and we pray for their healing, as they, too, grieve this travesty. So, in June, we come crawling to our God in prayer and supplication: Please, Holy Spirit, blow on your people and your land. Bring justice. Bring love! Bring healing.

And thirdly, in June we look forward into the summer and plan for our summer message series. Starting in July, my Sunday messages will address whatever you've been wondering about: those puzzling questions you have about the Bible, or how Christians ought to respond to something, or why God seems to do—or not do—certain things. Therefore, this summer we'll try to address whatever it is you've been wondering about! The Bible applies to ALL parts of our lives, so there is no issue or topic off limits! Simply email, call, or write to the church office about a topic, question, Bible passage or issue that you would like to hear more about. We'll do our best to preach during the summer on whatever you submit. Submit your requests early, however, as we will need some time to prepare. It's up to you to set this summer's message series!

Keep calm and carry God!

Pastor David



Summer Message Series: FAQ's

For our Sunday messages this summer, I'll speak on whatever you've been wondering about! You've been sheltering at home for a month and a half, have been worshiping on line through our videos, and have not had the opportunity to talk about your faith questions or discuss with others what you've been wondering about. Therefore, this summer we'll address whatever it is you've been wondering about! The Bible applies to ALL parts of our lives, so there is no issue or topic off limits! Simply email, call, or write to the church office about a topic, question, Bible passage or issue that you would like to hear more about. We'll do our best to preach during the summer on whatever you submit. Submit your requests early, however, as we will need some time to prepare. It's up to you to set this summer's message series!

AMT Update

Our zoom team meeting on May 14 th , was dedicated to issues surrounding Covid-19. Looking at it through our **Love.Grow.Serve** foundation we took note of the following: Love-Since the “shelter at home” declaration starting March 17 th , staff has creatively changed our Sunday worship to a pre-recorded you-tube video. In May a new element of drive-in worship was added. In June, the plan is to have worship outdoors on our lawn while exercising social distancing and post a recorded service later on Sunday for those unable to attend.

Grow-Daily devotional videos from our church family and staff have been posted five times weekly. As time goes on and we are able to get back to some normal sharing with each other, devotions will start cutting down to two times weekly, then once weekly by September. We will not be having any summer grow groups, though we do encourage ongoing groups to meet as they feel comfortable (using social distancing and masks, if needed). A special Summer BBQ Bash is being planned for August.

Serve- Continue Community Care and Car Care as a drive-thru option. A new UMW group called Hope Moves will be launched by fall whose purpose is to research, educate and then actively address a specific need in our community. Our church has been collecting and giving quite a bit of food to those who come to the church building in need of help, however we can continue helping our community by bringing in more items. The main part of our AMT meeting was brainstorming about how we can address needs in our community. Many great ideas were mentioned and we narrowed it down to three:

- 1) focus on marriage/couples to help people deal with issues in the home.
- 2) Continual praying by small groups of three or four walking our neighborhoods and praying for our community.
- 3) Lastly, we felt a need to be available to help our schools in the fall as they start a new year. As Pastor David said, “We need to apply the Gospel to whatever the reality is right now and find ways to be relevant.”

This last month, CMMT (Church Maintenance Ministry Team) presented a document with guidelines for re-opening our in-door worship time. We consider this a living document that will continue to change as we see fit. A consensus was reached by the AMT team to accept this document as a great starting point. These guidelines will address sanitizing needs, fellowship time, nursery etc.

Moving forward, it will be wonderful to see our church family’s faces again (even as we continue social distancing). A chance to grieve with those who have lost loved ones and share our memories, to re-engage with those who are lonely, and also share with those the joys of new birth.

I am so thankful that because of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit dwells within us, helps guide us through tough times, and keeps us on the path to mature Christian Discipleship.

God is good, all the time!

Marilee Leonard, Lay Leader



A Word from Worship

June marks a new month, a new season, and a new way of life as school officially ends and summer takes its place. June also brings along with it experiences that are brand new to all of us. Stay at home orders have been lifted and churches can congregate in the wake of the destructive Coronavirus. Hopefully June can also mark the end of country-wide rioting, as many neighborhoods and communities have been propelled into chaos.

For all the newness that June brings, we also identify with the author of Ecclesiasties when he says, "There is nothing new under the sun." Every citizen of our country can see before them the brokenness of our world clearly displayed. It is evident that we need Jesus. We need a cure for this sin disease we all have in common. We need to be saved...from viruses, from our internal desires, from each other.

Our fallen nature is evident, but Paul shares with us in his letter to the Romans that God's nature is evident as well. "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse" (Rom. 1:20). The Psalmist also chimes in: "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands" (Psalm 19:1).

We stand faithful to God as a church rooted in the long history of God's people and convinced by the testimony of nature all around us. We stand faithful to God in a country setting itself on fire demonstrating once again the brokenness of our nature. We stand faithful to God as a church willing to offer the gospel message of a God who delivers, forgives and creates new life.

So this June, we are trying something new by meeting outdoors for our services. The purpose of this is threefold:

- By being outside, we can better enact distancing precautions against the spread of Coronavirus.
- By being outside, we can immerse ourselves in the good creation that reveals to us our good Creator.
- By being outside we can testify to the surrounding neighbors that we are a church present with them and that we have something to offer them in the midst of a fallen world.

Outdoor worship is anything but convenient. We have to deal with the hot sun, we have to lug around lawn chairs, we have to cobble together a sound system. But we can take a few extra steps, we can expend ourselves for the sake of those living around us.

We are the church. We try something new in the old patterns of this world. We keep calm and carry God.

For the King,
Pastor Andrew



Mission Trip Update:

Due to Covid-19, we are adapting the mission trip this year to a more local experience. **This means there are more opportunities to be involved!** We are going to put on our own LOCAL mission week Aug. 10 -15th. We are planning to help those in our congregation and community to assist wherever needs may be. We will start the week at 7pm Monday night, get organized here at church then headed out after breakfast Tuesday morning.

How can you be a part of this?

1. We want this to be inter-generational. Sign up to stay at church and be a part of the working crew. Adults you can sign up and go home at night if that is more comfortable.
2. Let Cassi know of people or organizations in and around Forest Lake that need help.
3. We will need some on site volunteers to help with meals. This will include breakfast Tuesday - Saturday, bag lunches and dinners Tuesday - Friday.
4. Come join our mid-week fun event, watch for more details.
5. Continue to donate to our mission fund. These funds will continue to help cover costs for the week. Our goal is to reserve the majority of funds received for next year's mission trip.
6. PRAY! Please cover us in prayer for those who are working and for those we are being the hands and feet of Jesus too.

Let Cassi know if you would like to be apart of this amazing week.

Youth Group

Youth group finished up our every weekly meeting via Zoom this past month. We ended with a deep dive into the book of Jonah. We talked about how we all run from God at times. Thankfully God is relentless in His pursuit of us.

This summer we are going to meet like we have in the past, every other week on Wednesdays for a devotion and games. A reminder is no Red Rock Camp this summer so that changes things a lot for our group of teens, some have been going their whole life. There will be a Red Rock prayer and worship night via Zoom Sunday June 28th. Watch for more details coming soon.

Cassi B

Director of Youth Ministries

Graduation Sunday:

June 7 will be Graduation Sunday, specially honoring our 2 high school graduates this spring: **Armando Lorenzi and James Richter** (we also include **Max Thompson**, remotely!). If you know of other graduates in your family (either high school or graduate) please let the church office know so we can include them in our blessings. (Remember, it will be out door worship: bring chairs, a hat, and PPE, and practice safe socializing.)

Confirmation Sunday:

June 14 will be Confirmation Sunday, specially honoring our 5 confirmation students who have finished their two-year confirmation journey! They are **Katelyn Bautch, Noah Bonsell, Aimire Lloyd, Tony Lloyd, and Jacqueline Wyne**. They will share their faith testimonies during worship! Come to support and bless them on their faith journeys! (Remember, it will be out door worship: bring chairs, a hat, and PPE, and practice safe socializing.)

Father's Day Devotional Videos

We continue providing daily devotionals through June. That means we need YOU to submit a devotional! Contact the church office for guidelines and help. The week before Father's Day (June 21) we would like our daily devotional videos to have "fathers" as our theme. We are seeking people to record videos on your fathers for the week of June 15-19. Please contact Cassi in the church office if you are willing!



Scheduling Changes:

- Summer Grow Groups will be cancelled. Next Grow Group session will be in the fall.
- MN Annual Conference (June 10-12) has been postponed.
- Red Rock Camp (June 22-28) has been canceled.
 - **Red Rock Zoom Prayer Worship** in Lieu of Camp this year! Camp has been cancelled this year since Camp Koronis has been closed for the year due to COVID-19. Camp leadership is offering a one night camp prayer service via Zoom on **Sunday, June 28 at 7 p.m.** To be included on the Zoom invite, please contact the church office.
- Ireland Travel Seminar (July 9-23) has been moved to next year.
- Summer Mission Trip (August 10-15) is modified, see article.

We will host a Summer BBQ on the church lawn (with food, games, activities for all ages) in August as a way for our community to come back together again! Be sure to invite your neighbors for this big evening of fun!

June Birthdays

May your special day be blessed and filled with joy! If your birthday isn't listed, please call the office and let us know so we can add you to the list!

Calvin Leonard 6/2
Colby Keintz 6/7
Angie Prchal 6/11
Kayla Rosenbaum 6/12
Linda Meyer 6/15
Chuck Werhan 6/16
Michael Berglund 6/19
Colleen Kargel 6/23
Rich Kargel 6/23

