

# Friendship

Lutheran Church of



April 2020

## *From the Pastor's Desk*

### Lights in the Darkness

I'm no healthcare expert and I don't play one on TV. But I am a minister of the gospel. So, it may come as no shock that I would proclaim that we have a place to go for guidance concerning any and all crises, including a health issue like the one we face today. That place is the word of God, which reminds us where to put our hope. Any/**Every** day is a good day to remember that our hope is not in what we have, what we save or even in our physical health. As Christians, neither the value of our *stuff* nor even our current health status should provide the source of our identity. Psalm 20:7 reminds us: "**Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God**".

This is especially critical to hold to when fear threatens to grab hold of our hearts – **News Flash:** our God is not surprised by a viral outbreak. He also is not disinterested in our fears. **He is our rock, our light, and our salvation** (Psalm 27:1). This might be (**IS**) a good time to look toward our Savior instead of our news feed for support. As American Christians we are accustomed to having money, power and securi-

ty. Suddenly as the possibility for reversal becomes greater, it is how we respond in times when we feel powerless and vulnerable that offers both the opportunity for individual growth and a powerful witness to others that we say we long for to grasp the gospel. Jesus told us to let our light shine in this dark world (Matthew 5:14-16), and our response in a time like this may be (**IS**) such a time to let that light shine.

### Repeating History

The history of the church abounds with examples of the church stepping into the darkness of suffering to shine forth the light of faith.

One example is the plague of AD 251, which swept through the Roman Empire decimating the population. In his Easter letter around AD 260, Dionysius wrote a tribute to the believers whose heroic efforts cost them their lives during the plague. Healthy pagans fled the cities, but Christians stayed to minister to the suffering. According to Dionysius:

*(continued on next page)*

### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

Pastor's Article, cont.	2
Message from Church Council	3
Worship Schedule	4
Elders Corner	5
One Month Bible Reading Plan	6
In Our Prayers/ Celebrations	7
Mission Statement Church Information	8

## Pastor's Article, continued

“Most of our brother Christians showed unbonded love and loyalty, never sparing themselves and thinking only of one another. Needless of danger, they took charge of the sick, attending to their every need and ministering to them in Christ, and with them departed this life serenely happy.”<sup>1</sup>

During the autumn of 1793, yellow fever gripped the city of Philadelphia. Historian Richard Newman writes that, “from the moment it began, the yellow fever epidemic was a public-health crisis. Thousands of citizens fled, hospitals became overwhelmed, and dead bodies rotted in homes.”<sup>2</sup>

During this time of crisis, it was the black church, under the leadership of Richard Allen, which entered into the suffering. Some assumed that persons of African descent were immune to Yellow Fever, and the free black community was approached to provide help. Spurned by others, Allen and his church served the sick while others isolated themselves for fear of catching the disease. Allen modeled an empathetic approach to loving his neighbors. Allen and his fellow volunteers were heartbroken over the suffering of the sick. Allen never lost sight of the gospel truth: Those around him were lost and needed Jesus. His love of God birthed his compassionate love of neighbor. His love was his witness.

Through both examples, we are reminded that the gospel calls us to live sacrificially in the face of crisis. That although fear may flood our hearts and tempt us to isolate and hoard, Scripture anchors our hope in God, who is greater than the pain we endure in this life. History reveals that regardless of the storms we must weather, there are windows of opportunity to minister in times of calamity. In doing so we testify to the truth that this world is not our home, that we are indeed citizens of heaven, and eternally subject only to the healing gospel of our Lord.

1. Rodney Stark, *The Rise of Christianity: How the Obscure, Marginal Jesus Movement Became a Religious Force in the Western World in a Few Centuries* (San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1997), 82.
2. Richard S. Newman, *Freedom's Prophet: Bishop Richard Allen, the AME Church, and the Black Founding Fathers* (New York: New York University Press, 2009), 85.

# A Message from Your Church Council

Dear Members and Friends of Friendship Lutheran Church of Joy:

As COVID-19 and the stay-at-home mandate from Governor Pritzker continue to impact our lives, it is a challenging time for everyone. Our hearts go out to those who have been negatively affected. During this crisis, maintaining spiritual connection and safety continue to be our top priorities.

There is a lot of disruption in our day-to-day lives. The last thing we need is a disruption in our spiritual lives! As your church council, **we are committed to** providing essential services during the quarantine period and the highest quality of pastoral care as possible, with the utmost focus on safety for you and the church staff.

As you might surmise, many people are frightened. Many people have been laid off work and are unsure what the future holds. We pray that this is a short-lived downturn and that recovery will be sure and swift. Continue to pray for those who are suffering.

In uncertain times, many people are reminded how fragile this earthly life really is. **We seek to serve** you the best that we can, regardless of the context in which we currently find ourselves. We want you to know that Friendship Lutheran Church of Joy is doing all we can to keep you connected, even as we must be apart. Our prayer chain is still in operation, we are posting videos of our Lenten Series, "Eyes on Jesus," on our [YouTube channel](#) (which you can share on social media), and Pastor is still available to meet your pastoral needs within the "quarantine" directives.

While our ability to gather may be temporarily suspended, our expenses are not. During this crisis, we ask that you continue to support our church by tithing, as you are able. We understand that some of you may be experiencing economic hardship, and if this is your situation, know that we are praying for you. For those who have the resources, please remember that we are to be good stewards of the church, that includes keeping on budget. We have only missed a few services to date, but we know that there will be more Sundays before we can resume services. Without our faithful giving, we may find ourselves with a sizable budget shortfall. If you are able, we ask that you continue to make your regular offering by mailing a check to:

Friendship Lutheran Church of Joy  
3601 South Duncan Road  
Champaign, IL 61822

Alternatively, you may want to consider sending your offering through your online banking service. Many banks offer a free service such as Bill Pay, which can be set up to generate a paper or electronic check and send it directly to the church, saving you the trouble of writing out and mailing the check. Mindy Piper can assist if you have questions about setting up an electronic/automatic payment. Just let the church office know and Mindy will contact you.

As we make our way through this unprecedented time, we ask you to **please continue to** support the church. May the peace of the Lord comfort and sustain you.

Sincerely,

Your Church Council Members of  
Friendship Lutheran Church of Joy

# Worship Schedule

## Worship Schedule May - June 2020

Date	Worship Time	Elder	Opener	Reader	Communion	A/V	Greeters	Ushers/ Offering
<b>May 3</b>	<b>9:00</b>	<b>Zuehls</b>	<b>Hellmer</b>	<b>Courtright</b>	<b>Johnson/Ashwill</b>	<b>Rodzen</b>	<b>Hellmer</b>	<b>Feugen</b>
May 10	9:00	Rodzen	Hagen	Francisco		Arends	Ryherd	Piper
<b>May 17</b>	<b>9:00</b>	<b>Zuehls</b>	<b>Johnson</b>	<b>Oostdyk</b>	<b>Oostdyk/Zuehls</b>	<b>Francisco</b>	<b>Stoller</b>	<b>Bauman/ Weatherford</b>
May 24	9:00	Rodzen	Oostdyk	Arends		Armstrong	Hutchison	Howard
<b>May 31</b>	<b>9:00</b>	<b>Zuehls</b>	<b>Ashwill</b>	<b>Francisco</b>	<b>Rodzen/Hagen</b>	<b>Rodzen</b>	<b>Drews</b>	<b>Johnson</b>
<b>June 7</b>	<b>9:00</b>	<b>Rodzen</b>	<b>Hellmer</b>	<b>Rodzen</b>	<b>Zuehls/Howard</b>	<b>Arends</b>	<b>Sexton</b>	<b>Feugen</b>
June 14	9:00	Zuehls	Hagen	Hagen		Francisco	Busboom	Piper
<b>June 21</b>	<b>9:00</b>	<b>Rodzen</b>	<b>Johnson</b>	<b>Paulsrud</b>	<b>Johnson/Ashwill</b>	<b>Armstrong</b>	<b>Hellmer</b>	<b>Bauman/ Weatherford</b>
June 28	9:00	Zuehls	Oostdyk	Oehmke		Rodzen	Morgan	Howard
<b>Bold = Communion</b>								

### Habitat for Humanity & Thrivent Faith Build Update

Like everything else in the world these days, this project has been put on hold. It is still their hope and intention to begin the build this spring, and they will do whatever it takes to make it happen, while following all the recommended health and safety guidelines. I will keep you updated. As soon as I hear anything from Habitat, I will let you know. As for now . . . standby!

# Elders Corner

Here is some HOPE in times of troubles.

"How precious to me are your gifts O GOD! How vast is the sum of them!" Psalm 139:17

We are in trying times; the worldwide virus, our economy, our future. We worry because we don't see what the day to day future in our world has for us. We don't have to worry because GOD is with us and has given us many promises to care for us. Psalm 139 describes our GOD.

The following is an outline of psalm 139 and our relationship to GOD.

Verses 1 to 6: GOD knows everything.

7 to 12: GOD is everywhere.

13 to 16: GOD made me.

17 to 18: GOD'S precious thoughts.

19 to 22: The wicked are my enemies.

23 to 24: "Search me, O GOD, -- and lead me in the way of everlasting."

With only three letters, the word **GOD** overwhelms our minds. GOD is infinite in every way and all HIS attributes are eternal. HIS qualities are non-contradicting. HIS holiness is undying. HIS existence is unending.

While we can't fully understand all there is to know about GOD, we can always strive to know HIM better. The more we know HIM, the greater is our experience of HIM. An increasing knowledge of HIM leads to worship, praise, joy, and closeness to HIM. Start your day with GOD and in HIS word which inspires you with HIS love to joyfully be HIS servant to others every day. The book of John is a good place to start. "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with GOD and the Word was GOD." John 1:1

Take all your needs and your concerns to GOD in prayer. Remember, GOD first loved us and sent HIS Son Jesus Christ to the cross to show that love, in redeeming us so that we may live with HIM in blessed eternity.

# One Month Bible Reading Plan

Most people professing faith in Jesus have never completely read their Bible. Many people start reading the Bible but then become overwhelmed by the number of chapters (1,189) and verses (31,102) there are. What we don't realize is that we can read the Bible in a year by reading fewer than four chapters a day. Every month we will post the "reading schedule" in the Newsletter. This structured approach of reading Scripture brings a fresh approach to each day's reading, while providing a clearer understanding of the Bible's larger message.

## Tips on Reading the Bible Daily

1. Start reading the Bible today — there is no better time than now!
2. Set aside a specific time each day. Set your schedule and then stick to it. Feel free to use any time that works consistently for you. If you miss a day, just make it up (don't give up); habits both good and bad are formed easily.
3. Read the Bible for the sake of learning, not simply to accomplish your next reading. Say a short prayer to God before you begin, asking the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom and understanding, then be refreshed by the words you read!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 1 Samuel 30:11-31:13; 2 Samuel 1-2	<b>2</b> 2 Samuel 3:1-6:11	<b>3</b> 2 Samuel 6:12-10:19	<b>4</b> 2 Samuel 11-13
<b>5</b> 2 Samuel 14-16	<b>6</b> 2 Samuel 17-19	<b>7</b> 2 Samuel 20:1-22:34	<b>8</b> 2 Samuel 22:35-24:17	<b>9</b> 2 Samuel 24:18-25; 1 Kings 1:1-2:18	<b>10</b> 1 Kings 2:19-4:19	<b>11</b> 1 Kings 4:20-7:39
<b>12</b> 1 Kings 7:40-9:9	<b>13</b> 1 Kings 9:10-11:25	<b>14</b> 1 Kings 11:26-13:34	<b>15</b> 1 Kings 14-17	<b>16</b> 1 Kings 18:1-20:25	<b>17</b> 1 Kings 20:26-22:36	<b>18</b> 1 Kings 22:37-53; 2 Kings 1:1-4:28
<b>19</b> 2 Kings 4:29-8:15	<b>20</b> 2 Kings 8:16-10:24	<b>21</b> 2 Kings 10:25-14:10	<b>22</b> 2 Kings 14:11-17:18	<b>23</b> 2 Kings 17:19-19:24	<b>24</b> 2 Kings 19:25-23:9	<b>25</b> 2 Kings 23:10-25; 1 Chron. 1:1-16
<b>26</b> 1 Chron. 1:17-3:9	<b>27</b> 1 Chron. 3:10-6:30	<b>28</b> 1 Chron. 6:31-8:28	<b>29</b> 1 Chron. 8:29-11:21	<b>30</b> 1 Chron. 11:22-15:29		

# In Our Prayers

## *The Power of Prayer*



- ♥ Friends of members: Kevin — Beverly — Heidi
- ♥ Prayers of healing for Donna
- ♥ Prayers of comfort and strength for Bryan, Austin and Mandi
- ♥ Prayers of comfort and strength for Katie
- ♥ Prayers of peace and comfort for Jacquie Voeks' neighbors' best friends whose son was killed in service to our country; prayers of strength for another friend of Jacquie's who is facing a kidney transplant; prayers of healing and peace for Jacquie
- ♥ Prayers of healing and comfort for Rory and Kim Eveland
- ♥ Church members
- ♥ Those who have yet to believe
- ♥ All who travel
- ♥ Country, state, and local governments
- ♥ All who serve (first responders, military, police, fire, EMTs)

# Celebrations



### April Birthdays

2 Nancy Morris  
4 Eileen Busboom  
7 Edward Rodzen  
10 Clara Chandler  
10 Mindy Piper  
13 Beth Annin  
13 John Drews  
15 Dave Miller  
18 Paul Peterson  
19 Andrew Paulsrud  
24 David Roesch  
26 Jenna Clark  
25 Joshua Clark  
29 Trish Feugen  
30 Jessica Roesch  
29 Tami Vaughn Broderick  
30 Roger Ferguson  
30 Leslie Miller

### April Anniversaries

2 Dave & Sharon Beth  
10 Eric & Patti Rodzen



### April Baptism Birthdays

Eileen Busboom, Scott Currid, Kelly Dennemann, Bernice Engelhardt, Jon Fisher, Kim Johnson, Gabriel Luhsen, Doris Meyer, Brooke Miller, Ami Reitmeier, Jessica Roesch, Melissa Roesch, Linda Vaughn



**Friendship Lutheran  
Church of**



3601 S. Duncan Rd.  
Champaign, IL 61822

217-355-0454

**Pastoral Care**

Pastor Glen Triplett  
pastorglen@friendshiplutheran.com

**Staff**

Sally Nourie - Church Secretary  
office@friendshiplutheran.com  
(Office hours 9:00-2:00  
Monday—Thursday)

**Visit us on the internet!**  
[www.friendshiplutheran.com](http://www.friendshiplutheran.com)



*“I wish to thank all the people  
who brought me flowers,  
came to visit, and brought me food  
after I got home from  
Clark-Lindsey Village.”*

*Bernice Engelhardt*

**Worship Schedule** 

9:00 a.m. Blended Service

10:15 a.m. Sunday School &  
Bible Studies

---

Holy Communion is offered on the  
1st & 3rd Sundays of the month .

OUR MISSION:

To *Joyfully* connect people to Christ and His family.