



2021

Newsletter

Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church

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From Pastor Jeremy

I hate goodbyes. They are always hard. That is true of any kind of goodbye, whether it be saying goodbye to family after a visit or friends after a get-together. I don't even like saying goodbye to TV show characters after watching them for years. I hate watching series finales. I just really don't like goodbyes. Saying goodbye means something is ending. It may be ending for a short while. It may be ending for a long time. It may be ending forever. Any ending is hard though. Any ending is sad.

I will admit I am sad as I leave this place. My time here in Perry has been good. It has been very good. You have all been so great to my family and me. This has been a place we have made our home these past few years. A place where we have been embraced and accepted. A place where we have been loved. A place we have loved back.

It is hard to end something you love and I have loved my time here. Hard endings come with being a pastor though. You are invited into people's lives and get to know them on a real intimate level. You take part in some of the most important moments in people's lives. You love them. Then you leave. You say goodbye and go on to another place. That is hard. I have been honored to get to know so many of you and to form deep relationships which I will cherish the rest of my life. I love the people of Mt. Olivet. A love that won't go away as I drive off to a new place and a new life.

I wanted you to know that before I leave. But not nearly as much as I want you to know how much God loves you. I guess those are my parting words to you all, God loves you. If you have learned anything from my time here I hope that is it. I hope you have learned that God loves you so very very much. That God loves you for the person you are. That regardless of what happens in this life that God loves you. Nothing can change that.

In life the people we love often come and go, but in God we find a love that is always there for us. A love that remains no matter where life takes us. A love that is eternal. God loves you and gives you that love each and every day. And someday, hopefully soon, you will have another pastor to come along and tell you that. You will love that pastor and that pastor will love you. And God's love will continue to be known through you. I know it will. It is what you do. I have seen that love and have experienced that love.

So keep on loving. Keep on loving others because you are loved by God. Keep on being a place where God's love is shared. Keep on being the amazing people you are. My time with you may be ending, but the work you have been doing is still just beginning. There are so many more people out there for you to share God's love with. People for you to love. Go love them with the love you have shown me. Go love them with the love that never ends. Go love for that is what you do. Go love the world because you are loved by God and always will be.



Easter Worship



In order to practice social distancing and still give an opportunity to everyone to worship with us we will be offering two services on Easter Sunday at 7:00 AM and 9:00 AM. We ask that those who plan to attend please register ahead of time with which service you plan to attend. To ensure you are able to attend the service you want please sign up soon before we reach our capacity. If both services fill up we may add a third. You can register by calling or emailing Pastor Jeremy. You can also register online through the link on our website. All current Covid protocols will still apply for these services.

Pastor Jeremy Farewell

Due to the ongoing pandemic we will not be having a going away gathering for Pastor Jeremy but still would like to provide the opportunity for individuals to say their goodbyes to him and his family. So there will be a drive-through farewell on Sunday April 11 from 2-4 at the church. Pastor Jeremy and family will be out by the parking lot for you to drive up and say your goodbyes.

Call Committee

The Church Council will be assembling a call committee to oversee the process of finding a new pastor. If you are interested in serving on this committee please let one of the council members know in the coming weeks.

Holy Week Worship

We will be worshipping in-person and online on both Maundy Thursday and Good Friday at 6:30 PM.



Indoor Worship Guidelines

If you are feeling ill in any way, please do not attend.

We ask that you wear a mask as you come to worship in the building. While not 100% effective they do significantly decrease the chances of spreading the virus. As being in the building forces us into an enclosed space it is important to take this necessary precaution. If you have issues wearing one, please continue to stay home and watch the service online.

Practicing social distancing guidelines – We will have every other pew roped off to ensure 6 ft between people.

Please also sit on the opposite side of the pew as the people in front of you in order to stagger and better distance from one another. We have plenty of space to accommodate our average worship attendance.

As you arrive at the church sit in the pew furthest towards the front. I know this will be hard for you good Lutherans out there, but yes begin at the actual front of church. At the conclusion of the service we will exit single file beginning with the back rows. Please be patient and keep your distance from one another as entering and exiting.

Due to the increased risk of infection posed by singing, we will only be having special music performed during our services. Please do not sing along.

We also ask that you do not vocalize spoken parts of the service, such as the Apostles Creed and the Lord's Prayer. You may repeat them silently or quietly to yourself but do not project your voice so that others can hear you.

As you enter the sanctuary there will be a table with sealed communion kits that include a wafer and a cup of grape juice, please grab one and go to your seat. Do not touch any cups other than the one you take with you. During the appropriate time you will be instructed to unseal your communion first with the wafer and then the grape juice.

There will be baskets for you to leave your offering as you enter or exit the church.

If you must use the bathroom please use the provided disinfectant to clean surfaces once you are finished.

There will be hand sanitizer available throughout the church, please use it!

We will still not be handing out bulletins but the service will be projected on our screen for you to follow along.

Obviously, there will be no sharing of the peace, shaking of hands, hugging, or other contact, nor will there be fellowship time or shared food.

Project Deliver the Love

We will be working with the Perry Lutheran Home this spring to help bring some cheer to elders in our community through Project Deliver the Love. In May hundreds of area seniors will be given baskets filled with food, special treats, and note of encouragement filled with love. To help with this exciting project we will be collecting cans of peas and boxes of Twinkies over the next couple of months. Please drop off your donations at the church.



Sunday School

Sunday School will be meeting in person only for the remaining classes this spring. This will take place after worship on April 4 and 18 as well as May 7.



Church App

This is a great time to check out our church app. On the app, you can watch worship services every week. You can give your offering. You can also keep in touch with one another through our prayer wall. Here anyone can post prayer requests or just things you are thinking about. You can put your name with it or just post things anonymously. Others can then comment on them and share their feelings as well. It is a great way to keep each other informed on things we are going through during this difficult time. There is a link to the app on our website.



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Offering

As you worship with us I ask that you please remember to continue giving your offerings every week. This is something you can easily do online as well. Click the link on the front page of our website to quickly and easily set up an online giving account. Or you can mail your checks to the church during the weeks we will not be meeting in person.

Prayer List

Prayers are powerful and as a church we want to be sure that whenever anyone in our family is hurting we are lifting them up in prayer. So please feel free to contact Pastor Jeremy with any prayer concerns you may have. These may be for yourself or for people you care about, members or not.



Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting Minutes –March 24, 2021

Members Present: Pastor Jeremy, Matt, Meg, Sally, Rusty, Paula, Caitlyn and Nicole

Reverend Erika Uthe – Reverend Uthe joined the council via zoom to give an overview of the call process.

Pastor's Report –

-Mid-week videos for Lenten services were well watched.

-Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will be offered in-person as well as online

-Currently 14 people have registered to attend the 7:00 Easter service and 41 people have registered for the 9:00 service.

-Pastor's last Sunday will be April 11th – Holy Humor Sunday. That afternoon there will be a drive by farewell for Pastor and his family at the church from 2-4:00.

Finances –

Finances are down at the beginning of this year compared to last year. Last year's giving was higher than normal, though, so not a great deal of concern about the decrease.

Sunday School –

-Sunday school held on Easter Sunday will be after the 9:00 service.

-The remaining Sunday school sessions will all be held in-person only.

Transitions –

-Pastor will be training others how to take over the technology operations.

-Ned Menke will be the church liaison for Habitat for Humanity.

-Caitlyn Lamm will be taking over the social media for the church.

-In pastor's absence there will be new representation on the ministerial board.

Other Business –

-We may need to look into a different internet provider. There have been glitches recently in the live streams, improved internet service may help with this.

-We are still collecting peas and twinkies for the Lutheran Home. They would like to have 200 cans of peas and 15 boxes of twinkies by May 12th.