

Newsletter

Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church

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2020



From Pastor Jeremy

Now, more than ever we are living in historic times. I mean we are always living in historic times. All of our present moments become history by the very nature of time. But not many of them would truly be considered historic. The cup of coffee I made this morning is not going to go down in the annuals of history. But the events of this year will. A global pandemic, nationwide civil unrest, a derecho all will be recorded in history books. We are living through historic times that will be remembered and talked about long into the future.

This is pretty neat for a history buff such as myself. I have been thinking about that a lot recently. In fact I mentioned to Liz not long ago how I should be creating a file with all of the things I have been writing these past few months to keep as a historical record. Maybe someday people will read them to get a grasp of what life was like living through the horrible 2020 year. Of course, I don't know who would bother pulling up the writings of a random pastor from small town Iowa, but I like to think someone will care.

That is not a new thought either. I have long desired to become a part of the historical record from this age. As someone who has read a lot of history books I really want to someday be mentioned in the books recalling this span of time. Maybe if I end up writing a bestselling theology book which captures the heart of our nation and brings millions to a new love for Christ. This would then make me the most important voice in American Christianity and immediately thrust me into the national consciousness. Then maybe someday the history books would need to include my name and children for generations to come would write it on tests. That is the dream isn't it.

I don't think it is going to happen though. I am OK with that. For I have realized something in recent years. Maybe I will not go down as one of the most important historical figure of the 21st Century, but I can go down as one of the most important people in the life of those around me. Maybe I won't reach the nation through my proclamations of God's love, but I can reach some of you in Perry every week. Maybe history won't long remember me, but the people who I showed love to will.

That is true for all of us. I doubt any of us are going to be grand historical figures, sorry if that bursts your bubble. Yet, I know all of us can have a huge impact on the world and the people around us. We can help people. We can love people. We can share the gospel with people. We can be a force for good in this world. And we won't end up in history books for doing so. But we will be remembered by those whom we help.

So, in the midst of this historically bad year go out there and make some good history for those around you. Big or small acts are all welcome. You just never know the impact you can have on someone's life by loving them. There will always be an impact though, that is just what love does. So love people. Help people. Share the good you have been given with people. It may not get you into the history books but it will definitely make you a part of the personal history for those you do it for. 2020 has enough bad history to record. Let's make some good as well.



Worship Update

Beginning on October 4th we will once again begin worshipping in the sanctuary. To ensure that we do so safely we are issuing the following guidelines we ask you to follow. The reality of COVID-19 is still as present as ever so we must take the appropriate steps for the safety of all. If you do not feel comfortable worshipping with us in person we will continue to stream our services on Sunday mornings as well.

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.

I want to thank you all ahead of time for abiding by these guidelines. As Christians one of our core principles is to love our neighbor as ourselves and ourselves and as a church we are doing everything possible to do just that. I know it is not ideal but few things in life are right now. That said it will be so great to worship together with you again even if it looks very different. Together we will get through this.



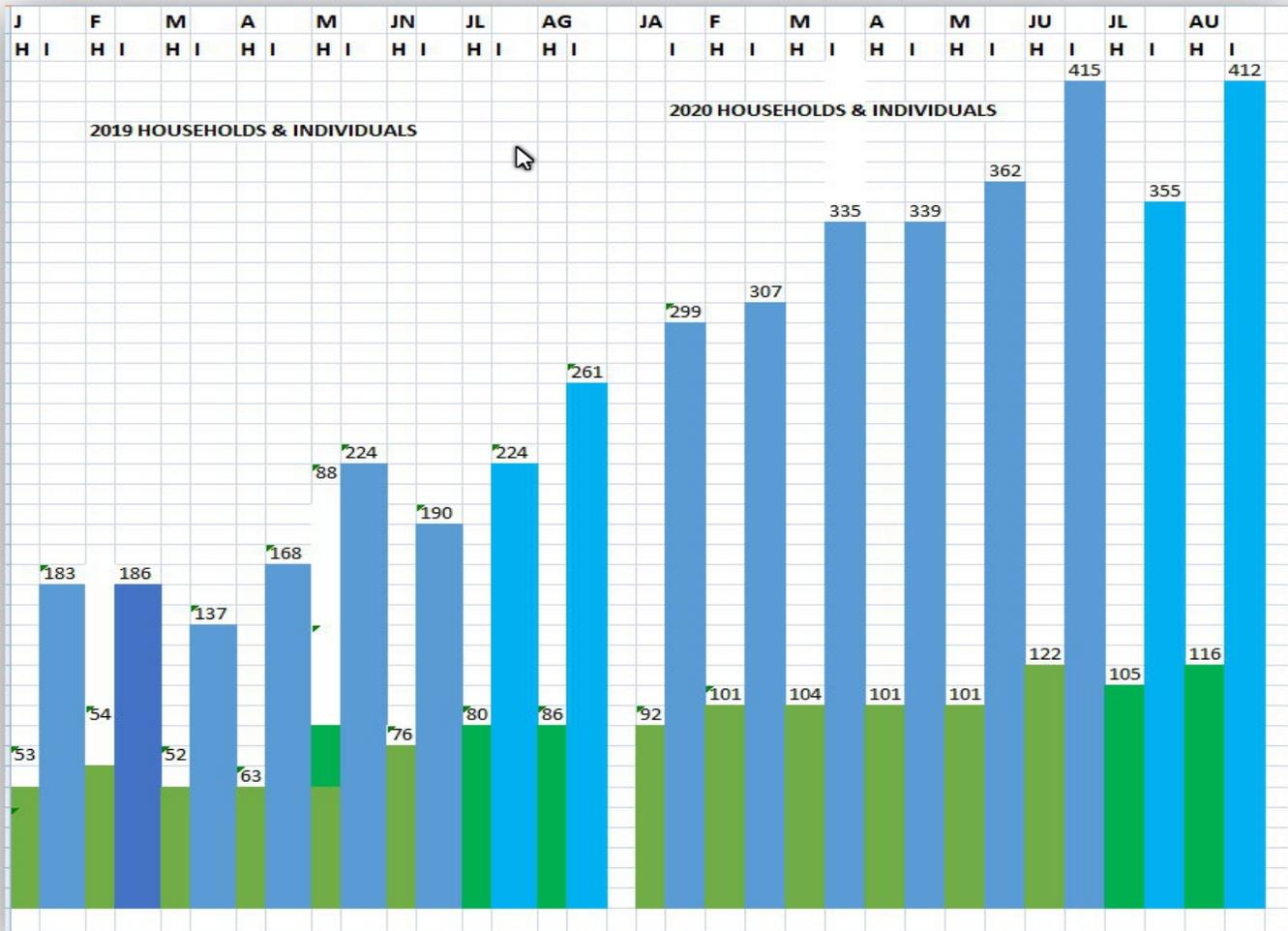
Women of the Word

Women of the Word will be meeting on October 15 at 6:00 on the church lawn to discuss the book *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson. The astonishing, uplifting story of a real-life Indiana Jones and his humanitarian campaign to use education to combat terrorism in the Taliban's backyard.

Church Council will meet on October 14 at 5:30

Food Pantry Update

The effects of COVID-19 go far beyond the sickness itself. Many people have had their lives affected in negative ways this year which has been seen in the increased use of our local food pantry. According to Lou Hoger in the past 12 months ending July 31, we served 387 different families comprised of 1,504 separate individuals. 269 households came only 1-3 times, 68 came 4-6 times, 31 families came 7-9 times, and only 19 came 10-12 times. For all of 2019 we served 295 different households. Our increase to 387 have all come in the first 7 months of this year. The accompanying graph shows the dramatic increase. Please consider donating or volunteering at the food pantry as they continue to serve those in our community during this difficult time.



School Donations

We will be collecting money and items to help our local schools as they are now in full swing of what is sure to be a strange school year. We will be collecting money for the elementary to use to buy snacks. You can also donate individually packaged snacks to be brought to the school.

General school supplies are also in need so please donate towards that as well.

Donations can be left in our shopping cart on Sunday mornings or contact me if you would like to give during the week.



JOURNEY OF *Faith*

Faith Statements

Our Confirmation students did a tremendous job writing their faith statements this year. Many of you may have written similar faith statements during your Confirmation days. I wonder how different those statements would look now as you have experienced life and grown as a person? I think it would be neat to find out. So I encourage all of you to sit down and write a faith statement. If you need help getting started I can send you some guidance. If you do write one, I also think it would be great to have you share it with the church as well. So please send it my way. If you would be willing, I would love to have you either read it yourself or allow me to read it during a service. Sharing our faith with one another is important and often neglected. Let's share our faith with one another this fall.

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.

Lawn Mowers Needed.

We could still use a few more volunteers to mow the church lawn this Summer. If you would be willing to help please contact Randy Reuter or Pastor Jeremy and get added to the schedule.



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. Please add Dixie Slight to your prayer list