

The Messenger

**Our Saviour
Lutheran Church
Warrenton, Virginia**



**No Judgment,
Only Love
May 2020**

CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!

This is the shout of triumph with which Christians greet the feast of the Resurrection. It is a reminder that our fears and hopes lie equally in the hands of a mighty God.

This Easter more than most, we need to hear the promise and take it to heart. This is a difficult time.

People, especially in hospitals and nursing homes, cannot be together as they would like. Children cannot gather around a parent's sickbed.

Those who live in close quarters are at special risk. Think of sailors on an aircraft carrier, or worse yet of those in prison, who are so easily forgotten by the outside world.

We do not yet know when the worst will be over. We do not know when we can visit freely, shake hands again, or gather as one for worship.

Here is what we do know: that the same God who raised Jesus from the dead is watching over us with love and mercy. And we know that this mighty, gracious God will not forget his people.

Worship

As a response to Covid-19, Our Saviour is not presently meeting face-to-face for any events that involve more than ten people. This includes conventional worship services.

In addition, it is wisest for most of our members to stay home as much as possible – to protect themselves and their neighbors. Please do this.

BUT WE CAN STILL WORSHIP! Here are some of the ways:

Sunday Services: As of the Messenger print date, our weekly worship will continue to be offered via Facebook livestreamed video each Sunday morning at 10:00am.

Go to **face-book.com/oslcwarrenton** for the live feed and to **face-book.com/oslcwarrenton/videos** for posted videos that are not live.

Video Devotions: Brian Stevenson has posted music from Voices of Praise and devotions, and Pastor Michael has been posting devotions both to Facebook and to our new YouTube channel.

OSLC Website: The “Devotional Prayers” tab leads you to reflections by Tina Korte and Pastor Michael. You can also subscribe to a daily devotion from “Christ in Our Home.”

Daily Prayer: A simple booklet with services for Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer is available at church. Just drop by and ask for one. (Pastor Michael will email it to anyone who asks).

Home Activities for Families: Yvonne Rodgers has been posting regular Sunday School content to Facebook for families to do at home.

VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR

For many Lutherans, Coffee Hour is the “Third Sacrament” – a time of conversation and consolation as much a part of Sunday at church as worship itself.

And we miss it!

So this Sunday, after the Facebook livestream of our Sunday service, take a minute. Pour yourself a cup of coffee. Grab a cookie. Then sit down at your computer and join us for

THANKS

We miss meeting in our various forms in person! However, we are grateful to all the people working behind the scenes to provide online worship opportunities for us.

Thank you to Barbara Hoke for leading from the organ and the few volunteers who have taken charge of our worship services, especially during Holy Week, trying to offer something “normal.” A

Our Saviour’s Virtual Coffee Hour.

It’s a weekly after-worship Zoom meeting that begins as soon as Pastor Michael can get to his computer (about 11-11:15 am)

There will be a clickable link in your Friday e-blast. Or enter this text into your browser:

<https://zoom.us/j/732534989>

Meeting ID: 732 534 989

huge thank you goes out to Brad Stewart who is editing our videos.

The choir cannot rehearse, but Dean Kolb has kept up morale with his Facebook posts, including a guided tour of the Requiem Mass.

Although it isn’t strictly “worship,” the many volunteers working the Phone Tree have helped to keep us connected. Keep it up!

Spirituality

Tina Korte is a certified Spiritual Director. She holds Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Luther Seminary, and is part of the THRIVE team

...A BREATH OF FRESH AIR...

A month or more ago, our officials and leaders directed us to “Put your life on hold. Don’t go to work. Don’t go shopping. Don’t visit your neighbors and families. And stay home from church.”

How’s this been working for you?

As Christians we follow the Lord’s directive. Let’s read together from *1 Peter 1:1-2*. It goes like this:

“I, Peter, am an apostle on assignment by Jesus, the Messiah, writing to exiles scattered to the four winds. Not one is missing, not one forgotten. God the Father has his eye on each of you and has determined by the work of the Spirit to keep you obedient through the sacrifice of Jesus. May everything good from God be yours!”

Peter is talking about the abundant life we have been promised.

How’s this been working for you?

Seems like there are two directives of importance working in our lives at this moment. What direction are we going? Do we stop our daily life routines or live in this promised abundant life, where Christ declares it all “good”? And are these two distinct paths before us?

We are definitely on a different path from where we were a month ago, but we are not lost. Let’s join Paul in his letter to the Thessalonians as he writes:

“May the Master take you by your hand and lead you along the path of God’s love and Christ’s endurance.” (2 Thessalonians 3:5)

We surely need help as this way of ours, individually or as a church body, has changed. But we know where our help comes from. With each breath we take we can count it as a reminder that God provides His riches of the Kingdom for us every day.

It's time for that breath of fresh air.

Find a soft place to sit quietly.

Thank you, God.

Jesus alive, is this to be our new normal?

Normal is...

Jesus living within me.

The Holy Spirit is available 24/7.

The shadow of death has been removed.

Thank you, Jesus.

Please help me, those of us here at OSLC and the Christians around the world to embrace, acknowledge and live in the newness of the precious life of Jesus.

Amen

Prayer Circle(s) Starting

Are you interested in a weekly small-group time of prayer with others?

If so, please contact Carole Zeiher, either by calling the church office for her number or by emailing her at CaroleZ@oslc-warrenton.org. (Remember to type the "e" in Carole!)

Learning

Adult Bible Study: The Lord's Prayer

The best-known prayer in the world is the one Jesus taught us. But how well do we really know it? Let's dive into its history, its use, and above all its meaning.

Pastor Michael will teach a Bible Study via Zoom. It will meet on Thursday evenings at 5pm, beginning May 7. For a link, check the OSLC website.



Vacation Bible School

Due to the cancellation of events by the Virginia Synod and the expected length of the stay-at-home order, we have decided to cancel Va-

cation Bible School this year. It saddens us, but we trust that God will put us back to use on that vital ministry next year.

Home Church Lessons

Looking for church lessons to do at home with your families? Look at Facebook and/or the oslc-

warrenton.org/kids/home-lessons to find what Yvonne Rodgers is sharing for you!

Social Ministry Activities

March 2020 – April 2020

Food Baskets filled: 1 –
Family of four (Mar)

Gas Cards: 3 (Mar)

Food Distribution:

Due to the Coronavirus outbreak, food distribution was canceled for the month of March.

People Helping People:

- \$ 7,071 for rent and utilities
- \$ 29,000 total income for month

Assisted:

- 27 families
- 33 adult individuals
- 7 over 65
- 24 children
- OSLC volunteer hours — 51 (Mar)

April Activities:

Meal at Fauquier Health nursing home on April 8 was canceled at the request of management.

May Activities:

This is the month that OSLC is scheduled to provide people to run the food distribution at Warrenton United Methodist Church.

Currently, the schedule is tentative, depending on the Covid-19 situation. If the event is a “Go”, we will put information on the OSLC website and Facebook page, and we’ll need 10-15 people on Saturday, May 16, to help run the event.

To volunteer, please contact Dave or Judy Raecke directly or through the church office.

FCCC DAY CARE

We are excited to partner with Fauquier Community Child Care to host day care for the children of essential personnel.

We have long partnered with FCCC to host their summer Teen Camp.

This new venture is quite different. To minimize the risk of infection, the day care will use the Fellowship Hall, classrooms and kitchen, while OSLC will use the church

and office buildings – and we will not interact. When the program concludes, FCCC will also have the hall sanitized before we return for our church activities.

For more information or to enroll a child, contact fcccvva.org.

What a gift that God provided us with this beautiful facility and the opportunity to help in this time of need!

FACEMASKS

Thank you to Debbie Stewart for providing the church staff with masks. Thank you to Ju-

lie Knisely for making 33 masks for the staff at Blue Ridge Christian Home.

CONTINUITY OF MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Led by Mark Knisely, this group has met almost weekly since first created at the March council meeting. Members are Mark Knisely, both pastors, Troy Stansell, Cathy Cogdill, Brad Stewart,

Cathy Miller, Laurie Sanders, and Jerry Hoke. They are doing an amazing job finding a way to keep all of us safe and to keep ministries going in these unusual times!

OSLC YOUTH: PASTOR TERRI WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

All youth, can you let me know how you are doing? Send me an email, text, Discord, FB Messenger, Whatsapp, Zoom, Google Meet, or whatever way you like to communicate? I will do my best to reply in kind. (If you do not hear back within a day, have your parents send me an email with what to check!)

If you need prompts:

- What are you doing to fill your time?
- Tell me something that is making this virus response time hard for you.
- Have you seen God at work in your family, your



friends, nature, your pets, your teachers, your video games, etc.? If so, tell or show me how.

- Share a meme, a joke, or a story.

P.S. Parents, the same goes for you. Let me know how parenting a teenager or pre-teen during this time is going for you. Or just send me pictures of kittens and puppies, or babies, or jokes...

Community

Staying in Touch

Have you heard from Our Saviour during the past couple of months? If so, it's thanks to Marian Rognlien for coordinating our new Phone Tree; Elaine Noble for constant updates of the website; and Yvette Pfeiffer, our office administrative assistant, for working hard on our website, emails, and mailings.

If you have not heard from someone by phone or email, we probably do

not have your information correct in our system. Please call the church at 540-347-3224 and/or send an email to office@oslc-warrenton.org to help us correct our records.

Virtual Meetings: Please take advantage of our Zoom account for your meetings, Bible studies, worship check-ins, and more if you need it. Virtual Coffee Hour each Sunday around 11:15 has been fun, even if nothing like the real thing. Join us!

Virginia Synod

2020 SYNOD ASSEMBLY ...

was canceled by the Synod Council in April. This is in response to the Covid-19 virus and the lack of access to Roanoke College or the ability to meet in person.

ALL SYNOD YOUTH EVENTS ...

through June have been canceled for the same reasons. However, look for updates in case Pastor Dave Delaney is able to schedule some online options.

Finance Corner

Bonnie McQuillan is OSLC's Congregation Treasurer. She tracks spending and income, and makes a detailed monthly report to the Congregation Council.

2020 Income & Expenses (General Operating Budget)

	TOTAL OFFERING	TOTAL EXPENDITURES
JANUARY 2020	\$ 37,016	\$ 36,269
FEBRUARY 2020	\$ 30,550	\$ 35,625
MARCH 2020	\$ 31,452	\$ 33,829
YTD	\$ 99,018	\$ 105,723

AVERAGE MONTHLY OFFERING NEEDED: \$ 36,750

The above numbers are proof that God Will Provide! And especially in times of trial.

The Finance Committee has been so heartened by the continued level of giving among our parishioners throughout the totally unexpected changes wrought by the coronavirus. We have been able thus far to meet our major goal of continuing paychecks to our staff throughout this period.

Hope you were able to participate in all the fun of OSLC's first ever remote congregational meeting – an emergency meeting called to discuss applying for a special government loan made available to small businesses, including churches, for just this purpose. With confidence that our Lord will continue to provide for our families and our church.

How to ZOOM

Overview

Until six weeks ago, the Zoom teleconferencing service was used primarily by businesspeople (and the Virginia Synod). Suddenly, it's everywhere.

But some members may be feeling left out of church events because they aren't familiar with it. Now is the time to learn!



You can join a Zoom meeting through an email invite, an instant messaging invite, from your browser, from the Zoom desktop and mobile application, from a landline, or from a mobile phone.

For most of you, it will be as simple as clicking a link in an email from Our Saviour.

Before joining a Zoom meeting on a computer or mobile device, you can download the Zoom app by going to the following url: <https://zoom.us/download>. Otherwise, you will be prompted to download and install Zoom when you click a join link.

Things You Will Need to Attend a Zoom Meeting

- Preferably, an internet-connected computer (or smart phone) with a microphone and webcam.
- The Zoom app on your computer or smartphone

- OR YOU CAN JOIN BY FLIP PHONE OR LAND LINE, although you will lose many of the functions.
- Each meeting has a unique 9 or 10-digit number (e.g. 732 534 989 or 985 676 2878) called a meeting ID that will be required to join a Zoom meeting. Sometimes, a password is also required. These are usually provided in your invitation.
- If you are joining via telephone, you will need the teleconferencing phone number (e.g. 301-715-8592 or 253-215-8782) provided in the invite.

To Join By (Non-Smart) Phone

1. On your phone, dial the phone number provided in your invite.
2. Enter the meeting ID number when prompted using your dial pad.

Note: If you have already joined the meeting via computer, you will have the option to enter your 2-digit participant ID to be associated with your computer. If you have not joined on your computer, simply press # again when prompted to enter in your participant ID.

Next Month: Using Chat, Speaker View, and Share Screen Functions.

Council News

As we approach the end of our first month of "social distancing" and adapting to Zoom as our social connection/outlet and Facebook Live for our Worship services, we realize it does little to replace true human interaction.

For me, the thing I miss the most is Communion. Maybe it's something I've taken for granted along with getting the things I want at the grocery store or physical interaction with friends. I've been comforted by the fact that in today's day and age we can actually worship together, albeit separately, and I'm finding out some things about what is important and what I can truly live without.

*All of us are having
to make sacrifices
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during this Easter*

All of us are having to make sacrifices like never before during this Easter season. I'm humbled by the realization that these sacrifices, which are hopefully temporary, are small compared to the sacrifices our Lord made on that first Easter. My prayers and thoughts are with all of you!

The council has been very focused on sustaining our ministry and partnering with our community. The team has been extremely busy trying to adapt our Worship services to a digital format, and we've been focused on preparing the church for FCCC and supporting their valuable mission in child care.

From the finance side, we've been carefully evaluating our needs and exploring options such as a Small Business

Administration loan made available through the CARES Act's Paycheck Protection Program to offset our payroll expenses. We will continue to work together through the challenges we are facing and are looking forward to when we all can meet again in person.

I want to express my gratitude to our Pastors and all those working tirelessly in adapting our congregation to this quickly changing world that we are living in!

I hope this note finds you and your loved ones happy and healthy – trusting that "He's got this".

Troy Stansell

Troy Stansell
Council President

Late-Breaking News

On 22 May, Our Saviour held a Special Meeting of the congregation, seeking permission for the Council to pursue the CARES Act's Payroll Protection Program loan described in Troy's letter.

The result was resounding approval. Although the loan is not guaranteed, we will apply through our bank.

Our sincere hope is that giving to the General Fund will remain strong enough that we do not need to use the money, and can repay it promptly!