



ALMA LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

July 2020

How is it already July? Does anyone feel like 2020 so far has been one thing after the next? Yes, the Australian wildfires were in 2020...and so was the conflict and tension between Iran and the United States. I don't think I even need to mention our continued reality of living life in the midst of a global pandemic, for us to see how unlike any other year this has been. But here we are, half way through 2020 only God knows what's left in store for the remainder of the year. However, even though we cannot control or know what lies ahead of us, we can take measures to make sure that we are acting out of a place of faith. That is why, as we move to in-person worship back inside our sanctuary it is important that we act in a caring and Christain way. In Matthew 10:8 we heard of Jesus, sending out his disciples to carry on the ministry that he himself had started; to " *cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons.* " To live out this calling there are some changes to worship as we gather again. First of all, masks will be required. We wear masks so that we do our part in slowing and stopping the spread of COVID-19. Imagine that this is our way in the 21st century to participate in Jesus calling to "cure the sick." If you don't have a mask, we will have masks for you. We don't want to exclude those, but instead authentically welcome all into a safe place to worship God. Second, singing and responses will not be congregational. This is hard, even for me. I love to sing, it is so central and loved to our Lutheran Liturgy! But again, in this COVID-19 time, it is clear that we are being called to love and care for our neighbor and give selflessly of ourselves. I encourage you to hum along, snap, and even clap to some of your familiar and comforting hymns. Remember that the Spirit intercedes on our behalf, maybe this is a time to enter into reflection on how creation is singing it's praise to God? As the crops and gardens grow...as newborn birds leave the nest to learn to fly...Lastly, we will be spacing ourselves out in the sanctuary by family units. For some of you, this won't be a real change as you typically sat with your loved ones on a given Sunday already! With these changes to service, I believe that we will continue to worship and praise God in a safe and healthy way. I want to also thank all of you for your continued commitment to your faith, to your church, and to one another in these past several months. None of this has been easy, not to mention expected. Lean into our calling as disciples from Matthew to "cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons," while holding onto the steadfast love and gospel promise!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Quinlan

INFORMATION

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BUDGET

As of 7/29/20

Income: \$32,793.76
Expenses: \$38,153.23
Balance: -\$5,359.47

MISSION STATEMENT

Disciples by grace, Growing in faith, Living our hope, Sharing God's love.