

There's a Psalm for This

I'm not going to keep you waiting: the church council met this past Sunday and, starting September 6, we will resume in-person worship at the church. There's a lot that will be different (details of which are at the end of this newsletter), but a lot will be the same, too. With school starting, we felt the time was right to invite people back into the church.

That doesn't mean you have to come to church – joining in worship online will still be an option to everyone who is more comfortable with that, and for those who feel poorly or otherwise can't make it to church. Whether gathered in-person or online, we are all still a part of the body of Christ, worshipping God together, hearing God's Word together, and celebrating Holy Communion together. Just as we are joined with the whole body of Christ across time and space, so too are we joined together when some are gathering in-person and some are gathering online.

It is important for us to gather together as Christians, this is true! But we are still in extraordinary times. The pandemic isn't over because we are gathering together again. But even as we still wait for a resolution, we can rejoice as we move forward.

Psalm 98 (CEB)

A psalm.

Sing to the Lord a new song because he has done wonderful things!
His own strong hand and his own holy arm have won the victory!
The Lord has made his salvation widely known;
 he has revealed his righteousness in the eyes of all the nations.
God has remembered his loyal love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;
 every corner of the earth has seen our God's salvation.
Shout triumphantly to the Lord, all the earth!
 Be happy! Rejoice out loud! Sing your praises!
Sing your praises to the Lord with the lyre—with the lyre and the sound of music.
With trumpets and a horn blast, shout triumphantly before the Lord, the king!
Let the sea and everything in it roar; the world and all its inhabitants too.
Let all the rivers clap their hands;
 let the mountains rejoice out loud altogether before the Lord
 because he is coming to establish justice on the earth!
He will establish justice in the world rightly;
 he will establish justice among all people fairly.

Psalm 98 praises God for God's actions: God establishes justice, loves loyally and faithfully, wins victories, and saves us. Though we have not yet seen the fullness of our salvation – either from the COVID-19 pandemic or from sin and death – those victories of God we have seen (like resuming in-person meeting and the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives) strengthen our hope for those victories we have not yet seen.

As we still wait together for our full redemption, let us give thanks for those things that God has saved us from, is saving us from, and will save us from!

Pastor Mike Galica

Holy Cross Announcements

We are in the **Season after Pentecost**, when we are shaped by the Holy Spirit to learn and grow as followers of Jesus Christ. During this time, the narrative lectionary contains “mini-series” on various topics. This year we have series on the Lord’s Prayer, Job, and 2 Corinthians. Our paraments are green to reflect our growth as disciples of Jesus.

Katie Kihlstadius has started a “**Marco Polo**” **Prayer Group**. If you’d like to join an online group devoted to praying for our churches, communities, and world, reach out to her at 801-675-6279 for more info!

We are planning to resume meeting in-person on **Sunday, September 6**. Please see the page after the prayer list for more information on the steps we are taking to keep everyone safe and healthy as we resume meeting in-person. We will continue live-streaming our services for the foreseeable future for all those who, for whatever reasons, are unable or unwilling to attend in-person.

Our state and local health departments have maintained the COVID-19 restriction level at “yellow” or “low”. The health department recommends maintaining appropriate (6 ft) distance when outside of the home, wearing face coverings, and continuing to practice good hand-washing and other hygiene measures like avoiding touching your face. High-risk individuals (those over 65 or with underlying medical conditions), have stricter recommendations. For more information visit coronavirus.utah.gov.

If, while we can’t meet together, you want to still give an offering to the church, you can mail it to PO Box 732, Brigham City UT, 84302. The post office box gets checked regularly and your giving will be secure.

Please let me know if you have any updates for our **Prayer List**. Out of concern for people’s privacy, I haven’t been adding specific prayers to our church livestream, but we continue to pray for all those needs and concerns.

Sunday School for children and adults is recessed until the fall.

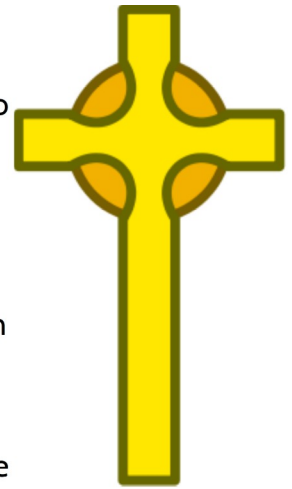
Holy Cross Quilters will resume meeting in the fall.

This Week’s Readings:

13th Sunday after Pentecost – *2 Corinthians: Part 4* –2 Corinthians 5:1-21; Luke 15:1-3,11-32

Next Week’s Readings:

14th Sunday after Pentecost – *2 Corinthians: Part 5* –2 Corinthians 8:1-15; John 13:31-35



Prayer List

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." — Phil 4:6

Keep the following in your prayers

Debbie, Bob & Jean Quick's daughter-in-law, in the hospital for fluid buildup in her lung cavity.

Claudia Long, Andrea's mom, back in the hospital for health concerns; prayers for Andrea and Bob as well during this stressful time.

Sherri Rackham recovering after a dog bite.

Lisa Weaver, friend of Kosbabs, who is hospitalized and in a coma.

Family and friends of Rae Riser, who passed away.

Chris, Ashley, and family, Jeff Hoedt's son and daughter-in-law, for health and safety during pregnancy.

Doug Anderson, family of Lexa, in the hospital with heart problems.

Gabe Leathum, friend of Pastor Mike's father-in-law, with major health issues.

Jae-Han, Young's brother, with stomach cancer, for protection and comfort for him and his wife.

Terry Pierce, friend of Bob Kosbab, for an unknown ailment.

Our vulnerable populations, especially those with underlying health conditions, the homeless, and those lacking access to proper medical care in this time.

Nora Greer, for healing.

Trudee Klein, friend of Deborah Kay, for healing from cancer.

Tom & Jeanette Croft, friend of Kosbabs, for healing.

Abby Rasmussen and family, friends of Kosbabs, as she struggles with cystic fibrosis.

John Buist, our custodian, for continued health problems.

Lynne, Robert Quick's wife, with health issues.

Aleasa, Robert Quick's daughter, with health issues.

Mark Sparkman, Quick's son-in-law, recurring health problems.

Gloria Perry, for healing from health problems.

Box Elder County Jail Ministry, that the inmates may respond to the Gospel.

Deborah Kay Hansen, prayers for healing from recurring health problems.

Give thanks to God

Keep those in prayer who are in harm's way

Medical professionals and all who are continuing to work during this pandemic.

Braxton Jeppsen, serving in the US Navy.

Let Pastor Mike know if there are any petitions you wish to add to our Prayer List. If you added someone to the prayer list, please update us on how they are doing! We love to celebrate praises as well as petitions.

HCLC In-Person Worship Plan

Current as of August 26, 2020

With the goal of returning to meeting together in a safe, responsible way, creating opportunities for people to attend Holy Cross Lutheran in-person while limiting risk of contracting COVID-19; and out of a love for God and our neighbor (expressed in Luke 10:27) expressed, in part, through recognizing that different people will have different levels of comfort, and respecting each other's personal boundaries especially when they differ from our own (Galatians 5:13-15, Romans 14:13-19); the church council has decided to resume meeting in-person beginning on September 6.

As part of this decision, we wanted to have a plan in place to try to avoid the surprises we had in late May, when we had taken steps to meet in person only to, at the last minute, reverse those plans. We will be following the lead of the Box Elder School District in this regard: if BESD goes back to online-only instruction, we will also go back to online-only worship.

Here's is a description of what in-person worship will be like when we resume September 6:

- No coffee or refreshments provided.
- Discouraging visiting in the narthex and fellowship hall to maintain social distancing.
- Encouraging those who want to visit with each other to visit outdoors.
- Requiring wearing a mask, bandana, or other face covering.
- Providing hand sanitizer at the entrance to the church.
- No sharing of the peace, passing the offering plate, or gathering at the altar rail for Holy Communion.
- Individually prepared Communion cups for Communion.
- Limiting capacity to maintain social distance (roughly 8 households)
- If someone isn't feeling well, especially if exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, please worship with us online.
- If someone is at high risk for complications of COVID-19, or is medically incapable of mask-wearing or following the other guidelines, please continue to worship with us online.

We will continue to monitor the pandemic situation, especially the response of the School District per our church council's decision. Keep an eye on the church website or Facebook page for updates. There's also a good chance some of the details of how we are meeting together will change; please be flexible as we all figure out together how we will move forward.

Please do remember that as we are resuming in-person worship, our online live-streams will continue. We have been gathering online for quite some time, and because we are still in extraordinary times, joining together for worship online is just as valid as joining together for worship in-person.

For more information on COVID-19, visit the Utah Health Department (coronavirus.utah.gov) or the Bear River Health Department (brhd.org/coronavirus/)

-Pastor Mike