

How
GOOD & HOW
pleasant
IT IS
when
KINDRED
Live TOGETHER
IN
unity!
PSALM 133:1

Life Together Sunday

OUR SAVIOR
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Life Together Sunday
Sunday, June 14, 2020



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
745 Front Street S., Issaquah, WA 98027
425-392-4169

SERVICE OF THE WORD

GATHERING: THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS US TOGETHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

CALL TO WORSHIP *Trumpet Fanfare from Water Music* — George Frideric Handel
Jiyoung Lee

WELCOME Pastor Jim Kruse

GREETING

PM: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE *You Are Holy* — Text & Music: Per Harling, b.1948

*You are holy, you are whole. You are always ever more than we ever understand.
You are always at hand.*

Blessed are you coming near. Blessed are you coming here to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.

*You are holy, you are wholeness, you are present. Let the cosmos praise you, Lord!
Sing hosanna in the highest! Sing hosanna to our God!*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

PM: Let us pray. God of compassion,

C: you have opened the way for us and brought us to yourself. Pour your love into our hearts, that, overflowing with joy, we may freely share the blessings of your realm and faithfully proclaim the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

WORD: GOD SPEAKS TO US IN SCRIPTURE READING, PREACHING AND SONG.

FIRST READING

Romans 1:8-13

⁸First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world. ⁹For God, whom I serve with my spirit by announcing the gospel of his Son, is my witness that without ceasing I remember you always in my prayers, ¹⁰asking that by God's will I may somehow at last succeed in coming to you. ¹¹For I am longing to see you so that I may share with you some spiritual gift to strengthen you— ¹²or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. ¹³I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as I have among the rest of the Gentiles.

AM: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL

Mark 3:7-10, 23-25, 31-35

⁷Jesus departed with his disciples to the lake, and a great multitude from Galilee followed him; ⁸hearing all that he was doing, they came to him in great numbers from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, beyond the Jordan, and the region around Tyre and Sidon. ⁹He told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, so that they would not crush him; ¹⁰for he had cured many, so that all who had diseases pressed upon him to touch him. ²³And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, ‘How can Satan cast out Satan?’ ²⁴If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.

³¹Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. ³²A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, ‘Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.’ ³³And he replied, ‘Who are my mother and my brothers?’ ³⁴And looking at those who sat around him, he said, ‘Here are my mother and my brothers!’ ³⁵Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.’

PM: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Love the Ones You're With

Pastor Jim Kruse

When my mother died suddenly of a heart attack at 64 years old, us kids, my brothers and my sister and I, knew that she was struggling to deal with the great physical distance that separated her from some of the key people in her life. Her only two grandchildren, my brother's kids, were very young, just 3 and 4 years old. And they lived in Hawaii, more than 3,300 miles away by airplane. She had only seen them once a year in their short lives. Also, nearly 1,000 miles away in the other direction, in a small town in central Illinois, her 96-year-old mother lived in a nursing home. Grandma Fluegge was blind and also had trouble hearing. She could only really connect with a person if they were talking very loudly and sitting right next to her. And because my mother was still working a full-time job, she also only saw her own mother about once a year.

I think that the four of us had some sense of how this distance weighed heavily on Mom's heart. But I guess we, as young adults, living our own self-focused lives in the bubble between our 20's and 30's, thought that it was good enough that a couple of us lived close to her in town. And the others could easily be reached by phone just about any time she wanted. We knew it was hard, but thought it not too hard. “Life's like that sometimes.”

After several months of mandatory quarantine, and having arrived at the same age in life, I am getting a new appreciation for what her life was like. I now know that it was a disservice to her courage and strength to think that her distance from loved ones was not too hard on her. I now know that it was very hard. I now have one more thing for which to beg forgiveness when I see her again in heaven.

But I also now understand that her burden was not one of sadness, she was always very positive and upbeat about life. And it was not one of loneliness, whether alone or with others, her life was full—she was never bored. No, I have come to understand that her burden was a commonly felt, deep longing, that is a part of any separation from those we love—a longing only made deeper by the extension of time and distance.

St. Paul speaks about this universally felt longing in the introductory words of his letter to the church in Rome. “I am longing to see you,” Paul writes, “so that I may share with you

some spiritual gift to strengthen you—or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith.” Last week, on Trinity Sunday, we heard about how it was God’s intention, baked right into us at creation, for human beings to establish deep and abiding relationships with God and with one another. Here, Paul is saying that, as a result of God’s intentions, we are strengthened in courage, hope, and faith by those relationships. These qualities, needed by everyone to live a full and meaningful life, were never intended to be developed in isolation from others. Courage is a function of the encouragement we receive from others. Hopefulness is a function of the hope-filled outlook of those we meet along the way. And our faith that God is present our lives, grows stronger as others tell us about God’s presence and grace in their lives.

I suppose there is a cruel irony at work today in designing a “Life Together” Sunday service at a time when we literally cannot get together. The circumstances of our lives have forced us apart. All of us have learned how to be amazingly agile at finding ways to overcome those circumstances and stay connected. Extra phone calls, doubling down on texts and emails, expanding our skill at participating in on-line gatherings and meetings. These things are now a part of our daily lives like never before. These new skills are helpful, but the longing still remains, and it lives right below the surface.

When this longing bubbles up in the lives of Jesus’ family, his mother and his brother went looking for him. Reports of his successful teaching and healing ministry are not enough for them. They want some real, face-to-face time with Jesus. The crowds that have gathered outside his house in Capernaum understand the frustration of his family, and they try to intervene on their behalf. “Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you,” they say to Jesus.

And his reply would have been as shocking to those who heard it then, as it is to us today. “Who are my mother and my brothers?” Jesus says. “Here are my mother and my brothers!” he says about those who are sitting around in the room. “Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

It turns out that the longing to be connected to one another that Paul is talking about, and that Jesus is modeling in early ministry, goes far beyond the adaptations we are making to our lives today. This longing is not satisfied with more phone calls, or electronic messaging, or virtual gatherings. This longing is about a restructuring, a reordering, of our lives and our relationships. This longing is satisfied only when we are encouraging the frightened, when we are envisioning hope for the hopeless, and we are strengthening the weak in faith. Today, our ability to satisfy this longing has not been impeded, regardless of the method we use to accomplish it.

Last year, when we gathered for our usual Life Together Sunday in the fall, I asked the children who were there to courageously stand in front of you, a couple of them in front of each section of the worship space. Each adult was assigned just two young people, two kids. Your job was to memorize their face and their name. And each time you saw them at church you were to say, “Hello, so-and-so, I am glad you are here.”

Today I am testing your adaptative skills. The chances are that you have not seen your assigned child for a while. But can you still fulfill your assignment? Can you give them a

call? Can you send them a card? Can you figure out how to do a 15-second *Face-Time* (whatever that is)? I'll bet you could, if you tried.

In the last years of my mother's life, when we would drop by the house in the evenings or on weekends, Mom always had a knitting project going in her lap while she watched TV. There have only been two people in my family who have been proficient, dedicated, and prolific knitters: my mother and her mother—a bond they shared throughout their lives. More often than not, the knitting project of the day was a baby sweater or a pair of booties. "Who is that for?" we would ask. "Oh," she would say, "Carla, down at the bank, is pregnant. They're having a shower." Or, "Ruth, from across the street has a new grandson. I thought he might like a sweater."

What I hear today, when I recall those words is, "These are my grandkids!" "This is my mother!"

Enjoy the day, while we long for another, when we will gather again. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Wherever God Leads — Scott Hafso

Written in celebration of the 50th anniversary of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Issaquah

*Sing we of God the Creator, worship the Holy One's name;
Highest of heaven, and our faith's foundation, ever and always the same.
Author of life never-ending, merciful Ancient of Days,
Gracing the story of each generation, worthy of honor and praise.*

*Sing of where we have journeyed, and sing of days yet to be;
Knowing that God goes before us, going wherever God leads.*

*Sing we of Jesus, Our Savior, Shepherd, Redeemer and King;
Crucified, risen and meeting us daily; love making new every thing.*

*Calling us all to be family, teaching us how to forgive,
Walking among us as Healer and Brother, showing us the way to live.*

*Sing of the gift of the Spirit, Comforter, Counselor, friend;
There in the promise of each new beginning, there in the hope at the end.
Guiding us now to the future: what are the wonders we'll see?
Living forgiven, and living for others; confident, joyous and free.*

OFFERING

Please take a moment to give thanks to God for all that you have received in life, and remember your generous financial support of the ongoing ministry obligations of OSLC.

OFFERING PRAYER

PM: God of mercy and grace,
the eyes of all wait upon you,
and you open your hand in blessing.
Fill us with all good things,
that we may come to the help of all in need,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of life and breath, you are our source of hope.

+ We give thanks for your gracious gifts of love and life. Sustain us when we are feeling broken or frightened; remind us we are enough; open our hearts and minds to hear your word and call; inspire us to be your hands and voice; grant us courage and creativity to joyfully share your Good News.

We give thanks for your creation.

+ Enable us to be educated, equipped, and inspired to be better stewards of your world. We give thanks for our partners at Earth Ministry and Lutherans Restoring Creation.

We pray for our world, nation, and local communities.

+ We lift up people for whom insecurity, violence, and fear are the norm. Help us to bring healing, wholeness, and safety to all.

+ Guide us to recognize our prejudices and empower us to eliminate the institutional racism present in our communities and our hearts. O God, open our eyes, our ears, and our minds. Help us to behold one another as you behold us. Help us to be firmly rooted in the practices of the gospel—so that the way we live will make real the dream of your beloved community among us.

+ We pray for all in the wake of natural disasters, including recent cyclones and tropical storms. Grant strength to those affected as they recover and rebuild.

+ We lift up all who respond first to bring aid: emergency medical workers, firefighters, and police. Grant them wisdom and safety in their work.

We Celebrate New Life!

+ We celebrate with Cheryl Hauser as her family welcomes a new grandchild, **Jedon Benzel Matthews**.

We pray for all who are in need of healing and strength:

+ We pray for those who are facing ongoing challenges and health concerns: Pattie, Paul, Lyle, Bodil, Perrin, Mike, Marilyn, Linda, Dave, Emily, Guests of the Community Meals Program, Sonja, Nicole, Josee and Jeannie.

+ We continue to pray for those affected by the COVID-19 crisis: bring peace and comfort to the families of those who have died; grant healing for those diagnosed; protect and sustain medical workers, care providers, first responders and chaplains; guide those working to improve testing and those working toward a vaccine; sustain those who are facing financial uncertainty; and help us to be wise as we emerge from our stay at home order.

+ We lift up all experiencing anxiety and depression. Empower us to reach out to anyone in need of care and support. If you are in despair, remember that you are loved. You are never beyond God's mercy and grace. A call for help is courageous.

+ We pray for our neighbors who are fearful or in danger in their relationships. We lift up the work of those who protect, support, and advocate for people who are experiencing domestic violence.

We pray for those who are grieving:

+ Loving God, wrap your arms of love and hope around all who are experiencing any kind of loss, disconnection, or brokenness. We lift up the family and friends of Joe, Don, Tim, Karen and Lyle.

We pray for your church:

+ We give thanks for the leaders and members of ministries of our congregation. Grant them energy and creativity for their work; give them grace to rest and find peace.

+ We pray for the residents, staff, and families of nursing homes and care facilities, including those ministries that are part of our synod: Josephine Caring Community, Foss Home, Columbia Lutheran Home, Norse Home, Bethany of the Northwest, and Hearthstone Community.

+ We pray for congregations in the call process. Grant them wisdom and patience as they discern where it is that you are leading them. We lift up transition: transition teams, call committees, transition pastors, congregation staff and lay leaders, and synod staff.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

+ Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Trusting in your mercy and grace, we lift our prayers to you.

Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

BLESSING

PM: May God the sower,
make you good and fertile soil.
May Christ the seed
bloom and grow in your words and actions.
May the fruitful Spirit
bring forth a bountiful yield in your lives.
God the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit
bless you now and forever.

C: Amen

SLIDESHOW

Celebrating the Gift of Our Community

Created by Joan Friel

Commemorations for the Week

Basil the Great, Bishop of Caesarea, died 379; Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa, died around 385; Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishop of Constantinople, died around 389; Macrina, theologian, died around 379, Sunday, June 14

The Cappadocian fathers, as the three men in this group are known, explored the mystery of the Holy Trinity. Basil's monastic rule forms the basis for Eastern monastic life. Gregory of Nazianzus defended orthodox Christianity in Constantinople. Gregory of Nyssa, Basil's younger brother, wrote on the spiritual life. Macrina, older sister of Basil and Gregory of Nyssa, was the leader of a community dedicated to asceticism, meditation, and prayer.

Emanuel Nine, martyrs, died 2015, Wednesday, June 17

On June 17, 2015, Clementa C. Pinckney, Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd, Susie Jackson, Ethel Lee Lance, DePayne Middleton-Doctor, Tywanza Sanders, Daniel Lee Simmons, Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, and Myra Thompson were murdered by a self-professed white supremacist while they were gathered for Bible study and prayer at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church (often referred to as Mother Emanuel) in Charleston, South Carolina. Pastors Pinckney and Simmons were both graduates of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. A resolution to commemorate June 17 as a day of repentance for the martyrdom of the Emanuel Nine was adopted by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on August 8, 2019. Congregations of the ELCA are encouraged reaffirm their commitment to repenting of the sins of racism and white supremacy which continue to plague this church, to venerate the martyrdom of the Emanuel Nine, and to mark this day of penitence with study and prayer.

Serving in Worship:

Worship Leader: Pastor Jim Kruse
Assisting Minister: Jen Winslow
Life Together Slideshow: Created by Joan Friel
Song Leaders: Sue Johnson, Alice Lewis, Emily Waltzer
David Hersey, Marc Montague
Percussion: Jonathan Shue
Videographer: Elizabeth Waltzer
Banner: Elaine Stamm
Bulletin Cover: Craig Gillin

Readings for Next Sunday: Romans 6: 1b-11; Matthew 10: 24-39

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Our Savior Lutheran Church Staff

Rev. James R. Kruse, *Transition Pastor*
Shari Lundberg, *Parish Administrator*
Dr. Jiyoung Lee, *Parish Organist*

Scott Hafso, *Director of Worship & Music*
Kate Gagnon, *Lay Visitation Minister*



Additional worship resources:

Readings: Psalm 133; Colossians 3: 1-4, 12-17

Suggested Hymn for Listening: *Built on a Rock*

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; Music: Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812-1887

Congratulations and Godspeed 2020 Graduates!

On Monday, June 8th, the Mission Quilters continued OSLC's tradition of presenting graduating seniors with a quilt to take with them on their journey.



Miranda Smith and Pastor Jim Kruse



Myles Cash and Pastor Jim Kruse



Quilt selected by Michael Friel.



Prayer is putting our faith into action. We invite you to include these people in your daily prayers. You can make prayer requests via email at office@oslcissaquah.org. All written requests will remain on this list for 4 weeks.

Pattie Rutten, peace and strength as she recovers from a broken femur and the loss of her husband. (aunt of Mark Howe)

Paul Salazar continued recovery from a heart attack. (step-father to Cheryl Hauser)

Lyle Bentley successful radiation treatment. (Don Robertson)

Bodil Isop healing and comfort from shingles.

Perrin Green 4 years old, unexplained brain activity leading to seizures. (Mary Ann Hult)

Mike Golick medical emergency in Florida. (brother-in-law to Patty Gerde)

Marilyn Grey comfort as she enters hospice care. (mother to Mark Cron)

Linda Chambers comfort and peace following the death of her husband. (sister of Barbara Hinds)

Dave Carlson continued strength, healing and comfort following kidney transplant surgery.

Emily Gacek acquired COVID19 from a caregiver, healing and strength. (Connie Fletcher)

Guests of the Community Meals Program safety, health and peace of mind. (Connie Fletcher)

Sonja 3 years old undergoing treatment for cancer. (granddaughter of Henrik & Patty Christopherson)

Nicole DeCamp healing and strength. (Ken DeCamp and Cheryl Leiter)

Josee Jordan peace of mind as she faces health challenges. (Dianne Tanner)

Jeannie Lindquist continued healing and strength.

Healing and peace of mind: Evy Sneva (Karen Hansen), **Marian James**; **Douglas Mandt** (brother of Mary Ann Hult and Lorna Robertson); **Gregory** (nephew of Joanne Suttmeier); **Doug Patur**; **Katie Moeller**; **Margot Inman**; **Ken Acker** (son of Lucy Acker); **Marilyn Carlson**; **Taufik Hidayut** (Ken Konigsmark); **Don Wilkinson** (husband of Gwynn Wilkinson); **Rebecca Thomas**; **Tanisha Foote** (Marilyn Carlson); **Dorothy Soland**; **Randi Strom**; **Jeanne Kuipers**; **Talton Johnson**; **John Pass**; **Florence Kinnune**; **Carol Harbolt**; **Sandy Aldworth**; **Jen Winslow**; **Larry Pruitt**.

Undergoing cancer treatment: Amy Aldworth (daughter-in-law of Sandy Aldworth) **Les Carlson**

(father of Dave Carlson); **Harold Mandt** (brother of Mary Ann Hult and Lorna Robertson); **Chris Howe** (brother of Mark Howe); **Peggy Scalise** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Eileen Letts** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Keith DeCamp** (brother of Ken DeCamp); **Barbara Jones** (mother of Ron Sordahl); **Doug McVety** (Helen Nychay); **Al Batt** (Connie Fletcher); **Larry Harbolt** (Ray Harbolt); **Gerald Welch** (Vern and Jeannie Lindquist); **Joe Martin** (father of Stacy Smith); **Christy Williams** (Bill Bergsma); **Diane Powis** (Paul Tolo); **Dana Mancini** (Jan Setterlund); **Greg Petersen** (Wes Collum); **Barry Donker** (Joan Parish); **Germaine Korum** (Lyle and Alice Lewis); **Kathryn Aitcheson** (Gerrie Hendrickson); **Yuko Takiguchi** (Teiko So-land); **Barb** (Janette Singley)

Living with cancer: **Liz Kidd** (Bob Beck); **Duane Jacobson**; **Mary Lewis** (sister-in-law of Lyle and Alice Lewis); **Mark Becker** (uncle of Paula Seeger); **Barbara Krogh Jarvis** (sister of Steve Krogh); **Suzanne Lewis** (daughter-in-law of Lyle & Alice Lewis); **Mira Bergsma**

Mourning the death of loved ones: For peace and comfort during this time of grieving for the family and friends of: **Fran Hildebrand** (Karen Hansen); **Joe Rutten** (uncle of Mark Howe); **Don Brannon** [former member of OSLC] (Rowan Hinds); **Don McWhirter** (Rowan Hinds); **Tim Teodoro** (Janet Heck); **Karen Miley** (Doug & Dianne Tanner); **Lyle Hassebroek** (Doug & Dianne Tanner)

Members and friends serving in the military; fire & police departments, & emergency rooms.

Global Missions and Missionaries: For peace in Hong Kong. (Global Missions). **Henrik & Patty Christopherson**. Congregations in Chiclayo, Peru: **Pepe** at Las Brisas, **Merci** in San Antonio and **Harold** at Las Lomas. **MaaSae Girls Lutheran Secondary School** in Tanzania.

Thanksgiving: For the continued good health of **Kip Hauser** (father to Cheryl Hauser). For the joyous birth of **Jedon Benzel Matthews** to **Jessica Murguia** (Cheryl Hauser).

