

April Newsletter

FAMILY OF CHRIST

Our Mission: "Reaching those who don't yet know Christ by strengthening and equipping those who do."

The Words of Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength,

a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,

though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,

though its waters roar and foam,

though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

the holy habitation of the Most High.

God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;

God will help her when morning dawns.

The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;

he utters his voice, the earth melts.

The Lord of hosts is with us:

the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Come, behold the works of the Lord.

how he has brought desolations on the earth.

He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;

he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;

he burns the chariots with fire.

"Be still, and know that I am God.

I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!"

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Holy Week

Palm Sunday
April 5
Maundy Thursday
April 9
Good Friday
April 10
Easter Sunday
April 12

God Provides



"I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me. Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble." – Philippians 4:10-14

What a difference a month makes! Last month when I wrote you, the focus was on Lent, launching new LifeGroups, and gearing up for a powerful Easter season. And you could also find toilet paper.

Now the focus is on...the new normal. Services are livestreamed only, Bible study and leadership groups meet on Zoom or a similar platform, and I don't even have to fill you in on the supply of toilet paper. So a great question is: What do we do now?

Well, even if many things have changed, one has not: We are still gearing up for a powerful Easter season. Christ lives! And because He lives, so do we.

But perhaps we can take one last bit of encouragement from Philippians: Paul speaks with strength and conviction when he says, "I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need."

Regardless of our situation, we have much to be thankful for and to rejoice in. Are you healthy? Are you employed? Is your family well? Even if you can't answer all those questions the way you'd prefer, **God is** good! He has surrounded us with people that want to support and encourage us in our walk of faith.

I am so encouraged by our FOC family as so many of you have contacted me asking what can we do to help others? Keep asking, keep doing, and keep the faith! This season will pass, and we will still rejoice regardless if we are in need or have plenty. Please let me know if you need help in any way, especially if you need food, medicine, or other important supplies. Your church is here for YOU!

In Christ, **Pastor Moreno**, Senior Pastor

FOC Helping the Community

In response to the pandemic hitting our community, FOC is creating a special community fund. It is called the FIND (Families In NeeD) Program.

We ask that you give out of the abundance of God's gifts to you! Every week that this COVID-19 outbreak continues, it places limitations on (and even leads to closures of) workplaces and businesses. Families are and will be in need. Your contributions to this fund should be over and above your regular tithes and offerings to FOC.

Our FIND Program will be utilized to help families get food, supplies, and medicine in addition to meeting other living expenses. Our initial focus will be purchasing King Soopers gift cards for families in need.

The funds will be administered by Pastor Moreno and our *Head Elder*, John Harris. If you would like to contribute, please make sure you designate that your donation is for the "FIND Program."

If you are in need of assistance and would appreciate proceeds from this fund to help, please reach out to Pastor Moreno - <u>markmoreno@foccs.net</u>.



Outreach in the Community

Dutreach

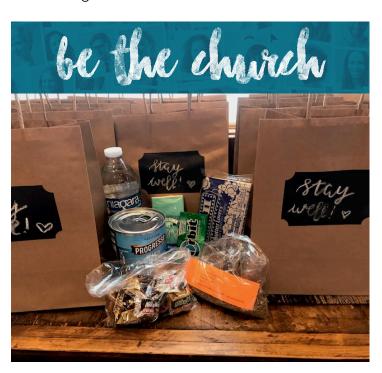
Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. ~ **Galatians 6:2**

While on break from community gatherings and events, we know many people individually are reaching out to their neighbors and communities to help out when they can. Several members of the Outreach Team have been connecting with neighbors and friends in interesting and creative ways to see if anyone needs help. We thought we'd share a few of them with you!

Cris Bonser donated many bars of wonderful homemade soap to the Outreach Team to give to the Staffs at Tri-Lakes Cares and Ronald McDonald House! Julie Curtiss and Wanda Carlson delivered them. (*Pictured right.*)

Julie Curtiss shares devotions and Bible verses with her LifeGroup brothers and sisters in Christ while in-person Life Group/Bible Study is on hiatus. She also memorizes the ones she loves most, and that bring her the greatest comfort during this time of uncertainty. (She recommends Psalm 42!)

Julie also put together some special gift bags for her neighbors. (*Pictured below.*)





The entire "Larkspur Neighbor to Neighbor" website community is working together to pool efforts to get groceries; donate extra items that are in high demand and hard to come by in the grocery store; and ensure that everyone in the community has what they need to get by while also reducing the number of people in public places.

In Marlene Schulze's neighborhood it was discovered through walks (honoring social distancing) - that a neighbor was in need of groceries, which were subsequently bought and delivered.

We continue to encourage you to reach out to your neighbors, family, and friends to see if anyone needs help - to build community networks to track those who might be in need of supplies - or simply bless someone with a friendly voice on the phone.

Please contact your Community Outreach Team co-leads, NancyJo Houk - nancyjo@houkhouse.com OR Julie Curtiss - prayonnon@yahoo.com, to get involved with their efforts or share ideas for future outreach opportunities!





Board of Directors

I know that all of us are feeling many different things during this time. Many are feeling uneasy about employment situations and about health concerns, not just for ourselves but for those in our families and circles of friendship, our country, and even the world. It is truly a time of tribulation during which we seek God's comfort and reassurance.

In such times, it is a powerful gift to be reminded that we are His and He is ours, and because of this great truth, we need not fear.

I was just reminded of this in a simple and powerful way earlier this week when my wife came in from a walk with this handmade note (pictured on the right), saying "this was left in our mailbox." Some neighbors (with whom we are not acquainted) had left this for us with a handwritten note on the back reminding us that we are not alone. Praise God! What a beautiful way to reach out to those around you!

I am especially grateful for Family of Christ (you) in these times. For me, and I hope for you also, our church has always been a refuge of faithful people of all walks of life that share the love of God and the spirit of hope and security that comes from this faith. This is the beauty of the Church to me! As we adjust to many temporary challenges and prepare for the longer-term changes that will no doubt come about, let us continue to gather (virtually for now) together to give Him who is the very source of our life and breath our thanks and praise! We know that by keeping our eyes fixed on Him - that our deliverance from these struggles will come, in His time.



God bless.

Bill Schulze. President of FOC



Facility Update

On Sunday, March 15, we were blessed to have 10 volunteers and 19 employees do a deep clean at Family of Christ! They came in to wash and disinfected all of the toys, markers, scissors, crayons, and equipment/furniture in each classroom. They also helped to temporarily pack up items such as books, puzzles, dress-up clothes, pillows, stuffed animals, and other soft items that cannot be disinfected nightly.

We greatly appreciate all of their hard work and diligence in ensuring that we are providing a safe and clean environment for the Staff, children, and families we serve!





Prayer Ministry

Paul says to the Ephesians, "For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge — that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." (Ephesians 3:14-19).

Then Paul continues to pray, giving glory to God through Jesus Christ for granting us, his children "immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine," (Ephesians 3:20). For even if this earthly corruption destroys our bodies, we can still sing and rejoice in our hearts in serving and knowing our Lord.

Such was how it was with one of our members years ago, whose body succumbed to cancer, but her spirit soared, rejoiced in knowing the Lord, drawing closer to him with many sessions of intercessory prayer, ready for eternity. She shared her transformation with me before she died, and for that I praise God that He gave her more than she could imagine.

The Prayer Ministry is always looking for more volunteers to pray for/with others after each worship service. Contact Susan Johnson - 719.641.3891 or susjohnson34@gmail.com, if you would like to volunteer to be part of this beautiful, expanding ministry.

Receive Prayer

We have a wonderful group of women who are available to pray with you and your loved ones after our worship services. To receive intercessory, confidential prayer over the phone, please call one of our Prayer Team members: Julie Curtiss - 818.601.2752 • Betty Henry - 719.495.5685 • Susan Johnson - 719.641.3891 • Ellen Otto - 970.391.9939.

Pray Together: Creating Community During Crises

Church family! We invite you to join together in prayer at 8 AM & 8 PM each day. Below we've provided five Prayer Strategy topics that you can pray over throughout the week. God's peace be with you!

PRAYER STRATEGY

CREATING COMMUNITY DURING CRISES

Jesus taught us to pray "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

As our world faces the novel coronavirus pandemic, we as the body of Christ are called to be unified in prayer first and then in compassionate action.

Please join us in praying for:

Let's cover our local & global communities in prayer.



JEREMIAH 33:3

Grace, strength and insight for medical providers to safely treat patients effectively and for medical researchers working to develop an effective and safe vaccine and treatment.



PROVERBS 2:6

Our leaders at all levels of government, health, education, and business, to walk in wisdom from the Lord and be renewed in their strength.



MATTHEW 9:36

That we would see the vulnerable and the newly vulnerable in our midst with the compassion of the Lord, and be willing to be the hands and feet of Jesus to provide comfort in suffering and meet needs creatively.



2 TIMOTHY 1:7

For the body of Christ to refuse fear / anxiety and to model wisdom, creativity, and perseverance to respond to the opportunities for the gospel to be preached.



2 CHRONICLES 7:14

For healing and reconciliation in families, communities, and our nation.





Worship Arts

Dearest FOC Family,

How strange and wonderful it has been to connect with many of you via livestream the last couple of weekends. And what a blessing to even have that option! Certainly, this unexpected change to life as we once knew it is unsettling and increases our sense of vulnerability. We're all dealing with a sense of isolation and limitation and wondering how all of this will pan out. Thankfully, God's promises hold true regardless of what is unfolding.

One such promise is found in Isaiah 41: 10 which says, "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

How reassuring to know we don't have to figure this all out or experience this on our own. We have the King of kings working on our behalf, and we have the beautiful Body of Christ locking arms with us (figuratively, for now!)

These days I am making a conscious effort to trust and to be grateful - two things that are easy to abandon in times of fear and uncertainty. I am grateful for the love and support we share at Family of Christ. I am grateful for the tiny team that gathered to broadcast our worship services the last couple of weekends (see the pictures of those folks below!) I am grateful for my family and friends on whom I can lean and for my dog Chloe who loves to go on extra walks! And I am most grateful for the hope we have in Christ Jesus...a hope that can never be stolen or even slightly diminished.

What are you grateful for today? I'm sure the list could go on and on...

Looking forward to worshipping together again this weekend and so looking forward to being together under the same roof soon.

Much Love,

Shannon Adducci, FOC Worship Leader





Women's Ministry

"Encourage one another and build each another up."

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Our Women's Ministry started their own Facebook Group! *FOC Women:* "This group is all about the ladies! Founded by members of Family of Christ Lutheran Church, [they] are using this platform to share events, prayers, and to celebrate together." This has been a wonderful opportunity for them to encourage each other and maintain a solid community in this unique time. Ladies- we welcome you to join this group; let's keep building each other up!





Stephen Ministry

Our Stephen Ministry offers HELP, HOPE, & HEALING

To learn more about the one-to-one care a Stephen Minister can provide, and to receive help through any on-going challenges, please reach out to our Senior Stephen Leader OR the Church Office - office@foccs.net. You will receive a response within 48-hours.

Senior Stephen Leader

CJ Bohn - recumbentcj@icloud.com

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever.

-Psalm 136:1

Board of Elders

What a change in our lives has happened in the last couple of weeks. Most of our daily norms have been disrupted in some way or another and yet, through it all, our God has remained constant. One of our Elders, Jordan Hengst, sent out a letter to the families that are under his care, and I wanted to include a small piece of that letter here.

From Jordan: "I decided this morning I would randomly open my Bible and see what the Lord had designated for me. I was directed to the 29th Chapter of Jeremiah and found the corresponding devotion focusing on Jeremiah 29: 4-14. The devotion was "living at our best," and focused on the letter from the prophet Jeremiah to God's people who had been exiled to Babylon.

The devotion began with defining exile: "being where we don't want to be or with people we don't want to be with." My attention focused on the first part of this definition, in "being where we don't want to be." In times where we find ourselves in *exile*, we have two decisions. We can focus our attention on what is wrong with the world and our situation and feel sorry for ourselves OR we can focus our energy on how we can live our best in the place we currently find ourselves.

Far more important than the climate of the current situation, the economics impacting us individually, or our separation from friends and family members - is the King of Heaven, God the Father. We must remember God is with us and will never forsake us. It is vital for us to remain rooted in the love of Christ that connects us to the Father."

Those words rang so true to me and expressed so well the need we have to rely on the Father during these uncertain times. Please don't hesitate to reach out to one of the Elders if you need anything, especially if you need food or medication due to a job loss caused by the Coronavirus. We will work with Pastor Mark to see what we can do.

I encourage you to take this opportunity to spend a little more time each day with God in whatever method works best for you. Take a minute and read through Psalm 136 and know that God's love endures forever.

In Christ.

John Harris. Head Elder





Student Ministry

Making the Most of Our Mandatory Sabbath

Scripture reminds us in Romans 8:28: "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." (ESV)

With this in mind, I've been processing the good that can come from this pandemic. One of the primary benefits, in my opinion, is the opportunity to view this time as a "Mandatory Sabbath." What do I mean by this? I mean that we have an unparalleled opportunity to be intentional with our extra time; time to be with our Lord and to grow in the relationships we have with our loved ones and those around us, even from afar.

Often, I hear many people discussing the busyness of life these days. There is so much to do and so little time. Over the past week, this crazy pace has come to a crashing halt (for most of us.) Thus, let's be intentional in this new season! Let's spend time together, as the body of Christ, with Jesus! Let's make the most of this time, not just beat the boredom by watching TV or binging entertainment on streaming sites!

Here are some suggestions/ideas...

Have you ever thought about holding your own at-home/online worship service? Why not pull up a playlist or YouTube on your TV (Apple TV or Roku, etc.) and take song requests from family members or friends? These could be VBS songs your kids enjoy, songs we know and love from Sunday worship at Family of Christ, or any song that draws you closer to God. Pull up the requested songs/lyric videos, and worship together! Then, take some prayer requests and/or read scripture together. Why not try to experience this type of worship together daily? Maybe commit to read through one of the gospels and/or different books of the Bible over the next couple of weeks! Discuss what Jesus did that you found to be incredible and encouraging - or verses in each chapter that stood out to you!

Develop some new "time with Jesus" rhythms to your day. RightNow Media is full of online resources and Bible studies for adults, children, couples, and more. Share time together, growing closer to Jesus! For those who have older kids, contact me about getting access to some of the great resources from Axis!

Dedicate more time to being with Jesus. Have you ever looked into experiencing *Lectio Divina*? Have you ever devoted specific time in your day to quietly sitting in His presence and seeing what He might want to communicate to you? Spend some purposeful time prayerfully meditating on His Word!

These are just a few examples of ways you could intentionally connect with Jesus and your loved ones during this "Mandatory Sabbath." This is a time to learn and be creative together. Whatever way you choose to grow, we pray that you choose one! May we look back on these days, thankful that the Lord was present and in our midst! Praying for healing, health, and growth in relationship with our Lord and Savior!

In His Grip of Grace,

Jeremy Hetzel, Director of Student Ministries

Weekly Student Programs

Our Student Ministry is dedicated to the mission of *passionately and intentionally following Jesus*. Online alternatives to our weekly programs are being offered via Zoom. (This is FREE for participants! Simply download the app on your computer or phone.)

Sunday Nights

Confirmation Classes: 7th Grade / 4:00-5:00 pm & 8th Grade / 5:15 - 6:15 pm

High School Class: 9th - 12th Grade / 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Tuesday Nights

Trace Bible Study: 7:00 - 8:00 pm

To receive the link to access each online meeting, contact Jeremy Hetzel - ieremyhetzel@foccs.net or Randi Oliver - randioliver@foccs.net.







Vacation Bible School

2020 VBS at Family of Christ - June 22-26Rocky Railway: Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through

We're so excited to share the love of Jesus Christ through this fantastic program! Participant Registration will open in May, but Volunteer Registration is OPEN! Simply visit https://vbspro.events/p/events/foccs2020vbs to sign up as a volunteer. VBS is one of the biggest outreach opportunities we have within our community. We need over 100 volunteers to make this event possible. Questions? Contact our VBS Coordinator, Sonja Genke - sonjagenke@foccs.net.

Children and Family Ministry Call Committee Update

Please continue to pray for the Call Committee and the candidates who have submitted an initial survey. Out of the 24 surveys that were sent out, 10 were returned completed. We began interviews in March and will continue processing candidates to get to know them and their gifts for ministry to see if they would be a great fit at FOC. We are thankful God already knows the person He's planned Family of Christ to call as our next DCE to Children and Families.

We will begin discussing possible in-person interviews as time goes on, but understandably, travel might be limited in April for candidates. We will continue to keep you posted! If you have questions for the Call Committee, please contact Kimi Miller: kimimiller24@gmail.com, 214.448.9878.

Children's Ministry

This month we will be working through a series entitled **Level Up**, which is a 4-week series on the Easter story. Video games are something today's kids are familiar with... maybe even too familiar! Games are played on every platform from game consoles to handheld devices/phones, and there are a ton of different games to choose from. But the constant across this diverse gaming universe is that every game has levels of increasing difficulty. When a player "levels up," they are usually met with more challenges but also with more rewards. Through this series, we are challenging kids to "level up" their faith by examining the events surrounding Jesus' death and resurrection. Even though they might be facing difficulties and adversity of their own, kids will find the greatest rewards in their faith when they fix their eyes on Jesus. Because **Jesus trusted God**, and **Jesus beat death!** When we doubt and have questions about God, **Jesus helps me believe**, and even during those times, **Jesus is always with me.**

In light of the current situation, we wanted to share a few resources that you may find helpful in this season. First, we will be providing our Sunday Children's Ministry Lesson via video format, which can be found on the Children's Ministry page of our website - https://www.foccs.net/ministries/children/. There is a blue button that says "Click here to watch the video!" We encourage your family to read the Bible Story together before you watch the video. It will help the lesson make more sense for everyone!

Second, the Children's Message will be included as part of the g:00 am livestream worship service in the coming weeks. You can watch via Facebook or through the FOC website. Finally, please let us know if there are any needs your family has or any other ways we can serve and support you. We're praying for protection and peace over you all! If you have questions about FOC's Children's Ministry, please reach out to Jeremy Hetzel - jeremyhetzel@foccs.net or Pastor Moreno - markmoreno@foccs.net.







Men's Ministry

FOC Band of Brothers USA – Colorado Springs Outpost ONE King, ONE Kingdom, ONE Force of Men "Perfect Vision 20/20 - All Eyes on Him" Hebrews 12:1-2

Our Purpose: We are a community that is committed to challenge and raise up men to be warriors and disciplers for Christ - for our families (our marriages and children), as single men, in the workplace, and in our "community" with others in this world.

"It is I. do not be afraid." - Watthew 14:27

In the midst of COVID-19 and how it is altering our current way of life as we know it, I am reminded of Matthew 14:27. The disciples were in the boat, and the boat was being tossed about by the waves. They saw Jesus coming to them, but they didn't realize it was him. They were fearful. Jesus said to them, "Be of good cheer; it is I, do not be afraid." Jesus is saying those same words to us in these days. Yes, take all the precautions that the authorities are telling us to take. However, in the midst of those precautions, listen to Jesus say, "It is I, do not be afraid."

Family of Christ Band of Brothers Men's Ministry focuses on Four Pillars:

1 Excursions

- Men's Retreat 2020 Perfect Vision 20/20 All Eyes On Him is Thursday, April 30 (7 pm) to Sunday, May 3 (12 pm) at Lutheran Valley Retreat (LVR) in Divide. The cost is \$180.00. Register online on the FOC website: https://www.foccs.net/ministries/men/
- ▶ <u>Peak Challenge 2020</u> August 5-9, 2020 in Leadville. This year we will be climbing Mt. Sherman, and once again, camping at Camp Hale outside of Leadville. The cost is \$75.00. Boys 13+ years of age are encouraged to join their dads on this special weekend spent in the mountains of Colorado. For more details and to register, go to <u>www.peakchallenge.net</u>. Last year saw about 160 men join together for this experience!

2 Base camps - Men's Bible Study & Fellowship Opportunities

Men's Quarterly Breakfast – Our next Men's Breakfast is **Saturday, August 15, at 8:00 am**. Join us for a great breakfast, fellowship, and a guest speaker. The guest speaker will be JW Roth of FOC who will be sharing his story of God at work in his life. We are looking for a team of men interested in set up, meal prep, and clean-up. Let Tom Keithley or John Harris know if you would be interested in heading up a team: tomkeithley@gmail.com or jwharris31@gmail.com.

3 Fire Teams

These are closed groups consisting of 3-5 men who read Scriptures daily and meet weekly to strengthen and encourage one another from those readings. If you are interested in getting a new group started, please contact **Tom Keithley** - tomkeithley@gmail.com or 719.761.3055.

4 Service

We are in the midst of coordinating a service project at Springs Rescue Mission. More information to follow!

If you would like to coordinate a service project for our Men's Ministry, let us know! This can be a project to serve our community or help a neighbor — anything that gives us an opportunity to share God's love with those around us.

FOC Men's Ministry,

John Harris - Brian Wanamaker - Scott Miller - Jordan Hengst - Tom Keithley





Mark & Megan Mantey

At Family of Christ, we support missionaries Mark & Megan Mantey in their work overseas in Uganda. Below is a message we received from them!

Greetings in Christ from Jinja, Uganda! Please know we are keeping your congregation in our prayers during this time of high anxiety and uncertainty in the world. We remember the words from Isaiah 43:1-3, "...Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior..."

Currently, in Uganda, we are safe from COVID-19 but are already taking precautions. Uganda is very proactive because of their training and experience with Ebola in the past. However, we do have parents in the United States that are immunocompromised and are thankful they are currently safe in their houses. Like everyone else, we continue to monitor the situation daily.

Even with all that is happening in the world, we strive to serve the Lord joyfully. Our semester still continues for the time being, I (Megan) am currently teaching six classes, focusing on Christian education and counseling. I was asked by the church to introduce two new courses this year, Introduction to Psychology for the Year 1 students and Conflict Resolution for the Year 4 students. I am thankful for these new additions, as I know they will be helpful additions to the seminary students as they study to become pastors.

Mark has recently finished a large project with the Lutheran Church of Uganda and the LCMS with putting a roof on the seminary chapel. The building is now at a useable level. It will serve as a house of worship, a place for training, and a location for evangelism for the church body as well as the seminary. We are thankful both church bodies could work together for this project and that it will be used for years to come to further the ministry! This Sunday the local church who worships at the seminary will move into this building. God is good!

Thank you for your recent gift! We are so grateful to be your missionaries and to take you with us to the mission field. Your gift allows us to continue to serve alongside the Lutheran Church of Uganda in our roles of project management and teaching. Both the Lutheran Church of Uganda and Mark and I are grateful for our partnership with Family of Christ. Thank you for continuing to send us out to share the love of Christ with the awesome people in Uganda.



SERVING THE LORD IN

UGANDA





Ministry in Action:



Megan shares health and preventative information about Covid-19 with seminary students



Lutheran Theological College Uganda (LTCU) faculty and staff share various messages of hope before students returned home for a nation wide 22-day school closure



Do you receive this via USPS, but have email? Thank you for helping us save resources! Please email Megan.Mantey@LCMS.org and we'll add you to the list. To be removed from the mailing list, contact the person on the return address or unsubscribe via MailChimp.

Mark.Mantey@LCMS.org or Megan.Mantey@LCMS.org

Our Hope Remains in the Lord



Bishop Charles Bameka and other LCU pastors hold Sunday worship services via radio programming

Currently we are all living with many unknowns. Our daily routines have changed drastically as people throughout the world are told to shelter in place and limit going out so we can "flatten the curve." Schools and churches quickly modified teaching and worship. Family life has also shifted, where parents have even more roles in an already chaotic schedule. We know this all too well.

So, what do we do? As Christians, we turn to the Lord. We seek His will and find great hope in His promises. Yes, there are indeed changes, chaos and turmoil in the world right now. Yet, this is such an opportunity to continue to find hope in the Lord and share His great love and mercy with others. It's a time of connection and community, even in the midst of social distancing.

Psalm 130:5&7 state, "I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope... O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast

love..." This is an important message to share with our community. Many churches, in the midst of recent changes, have continued to share this message on Sunday via live streaming. Our own eastern and southern Africa LCMS missionaries have been meeting this way for daily devotions and weekly worship via Zoom. It does indeed offer great encouragement and hope in Christ Jesus.

The Lutheran Church of Uganda (LCU) is also navigating these recent changes. Radio programming, phone calls, and individual visits have been implemented as a way to share the love of Christ with others. The word of the Lord encourages one another and continues to be preached throughout all parts of Uganda! Yes, there are changes, but God is faithful. The love of Christ and his redemptive message are shared. The Holy Spirit continues to guide, lead, and encourage His people. Our hope remains in the Lord.

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PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Health and safety as we serve
- Health, safety and healing for God's people around the world
- The many caretakers and providers throughout the world

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- Our continued hope and encouragement found in Christ Jesus
- Our work visas renewed for 3 more years
- The LCU pastors as they share the Gospel and minister to His people throughout Uganda through radio programming, phone calls and limited visitations

PRAISE GOD FOR:

 The individuals, families, and congregations that continue to support the Lord's work in Uganda through our hands with prayers, encouragement and financial support



Life and Mission Update



Greetings from the Manteys!

Like everyone else, our last few weeks have looked differently for daily life and ministry.

In mid-March the Ugandan government put preventative measures in place to help with health and safety. These included temporarily pausing schools and public worship. Similar to the US, the LCU pastors and LTCU faculty and staff had to make quick and decisive actions that would best support the health and well-being of the people, as well as continue to further the work of the Lord.

At the seminary, we used this opportunity to share facts and preventative measures about

Covid-19 from the CDC and the Ugandan Ministry of Health, knowing that the students are leaders in their communities and congregations. This allows the seminary students to teach others correct information and ensure that even the most rural communities can learn best practices for preventative care and treatment. This is important because the rural populations do not always receive information right away.

CURRENT DAILY LIFE

The Lord's work continues! We safely work from our home in Jinja, Uganda. Yet, we are still able to daily liaise with the LCU. Mark meets regularly with the church and seminary leaders as the seminary still needs to be maintained and developed during this temporary break. He also continues to work on long-term fiscal planning with the seminary leaders.

Megan has been working ahead on curriculum, grading papers, and calling students to maintain relationships and encourage one another. Megan also serves as a mental health counselor for other missionaries and expatriates in Jinja, and continues to do that via the Internet. We praise God for the unique opportunities to serve and praise Him in Jesus' name!

"Be strong and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord!" ~ Psalm 31:24

In Joyful Service,

Mark & Megan Mantey



To support the LCMS through the work of Mark and Megan Mantey, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod P.O. Box 66861 St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

OR THROUGH:

Mission Central 40718 Highway E-16 Mapleton, IA 51034 Please include "Mantey - Uganda Support" on the memo line of your check.

Gifts can also be given securely online at www.lcms.org/mantey or https:// missioncentral.us/mantey/

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Birthdays

- Grant Grotelueschen
- 2 Isabelle Harris
- Phil Glynn, Lesa Lindgren, Holly Parks, Maya Brown, Kloee Spencer 3
- Susan Mathis, Sunette Kleynhans, Kate Dohse, Bryan Holmes, Sarah Curl 4
- Randy Bruns, Ted Gates, Christina Pruneski 5
- 6 Tami New, Tyler Pope, Riley Long
- Kathy Huntrods, Gregory Meyers, Kathy Griffin, Jon Merrell 7
- Rod Carlson, Debbie Jahaaski, Paul Haller 8
- 11 Darrin Edmond, Bret Collard, Lois Cavera
- 12 Ikuko Wacker, Heather Schuelke
- 13 Linda Hunemuller, Angela Pruneski
- 14 John Becker
- 15 Shannon Adducci
- 17 Vicki Davis, Maureen Phaneuf, Timothy Gallagher
- 18 Terri Flom, Keith Everett, Susann Garton, Ariana Schuelke, Abby Skrastins
- 19 Katherine Silva
- 20 Wayne Pedersen, Thomas Kleynhans, Kaley Henneman, Elizabeth Varney
- 21 Luke Davis, Steve Jankowski
- 22 Kimberly Kent, Eliot Schauland, Hannah Skrastins, Greta Corneliusen, Alyson Fisher
- 24 Chris Rosenberger, Jessica Borg, Natalie Borg
- 25 John Curtiss, Chris Pruneski, Katy Mariotti, Glencora Wilhide
- 26 Doug Smith, Baylor Hodson, Joseph Johnson, Caden Ellis, Isabella Hopkins
- 27 Jake Ellis, Emily Jack, Abigail Johnson
- 29 Sophia Mattea, Lila Ochsner, Elizabeth Denzer

Anniversaries

- Zac & Morgan Kibby 11 years
- Mark & Alison Grotelueschen 26 years
- Don & Laurel Kirkland 54 years
- 12 Charles & Kathy Latzke 40 years
- 21 Carl & Julie Sandal 31 years
- 22 Mark & Diane Keller 31 years

- 24 James & Vicki Cloppas 44 years
- 26 Ray & Joni Meyer 67 years
- 27 James & Tamera Tresemer 18 years
- 29 Rollie & Gretchen Corneliusen 25 years
- 29 Paul & LaRae Maruyama 51 years

We hope you enjoyed our **April Newsletter!**

Family of Christ Lutheran Church

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