

St. Luke's Voice

St. Luke's Lutheran Church, New Rochelle, N.Y.

May 2020

St. Luke's

Lutheran

Church

95 EASTCHESTER
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NEW YORK 10801

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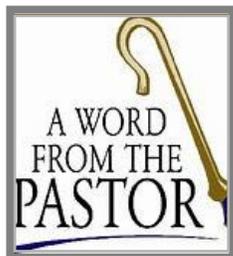
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Newsletter Editor: Pat
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Renee Taylor: Produc-
tion.

When Our Faith is Challenged



Dear Beloved Brothers and Sisters,,

What a difference a month makes! Certainly, in these times. Even as we adjust daily to new numbers of people effected by the virus, so we are all touched by it, with many feelings and changed plans.

The one thing that also changes may be our faith. Not the substance of it but rather the degree. Suffering, crises, pandemic, global change, unemployment – all these call us to take stock in the meaning and direction of our lives and the reality of faith. The community of Christ, the Church, has been through such things before in our long history.

Faith, in our Christian understanding, is trusting God, especially when the future (maybe even the present) is unknown. Abraham and Sarah were sent on a journey to a place they did not know, only trusting God.

The people of Israel lived by faith in a long history. “My people wrestled angels and killed giants,” Elsa says of her people in the film “Jojo Rabbit”. Living in the promises of God.

The disciples went forward into the world with no idea what would come next. They trusted the Spirit of Jesus Christ to get them where God wanted them to be.

Faith is a gift of God. Martin Luther says in the Small Catechism, “I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him, but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel.”

Faith itself is God’s gift to us. Not our own effort or devising. Maybe that is the best news of all right now. When we operate as if faith is our work, of course it will totter, trip, and fall. But if it is solely God’s doing, then the gift cannot fail.

When our faith is challenged, wavers or we “want more faith”, we are reminded that we already have it and can trust God to hear our prayer and act.

“Man may forever do as he will, he can never enter heaven unless *God takes the first step*, with His Word, which offers him divine grace and enlightens his heart so as to get upon the right way.” (Luther) Think of that. God took the first step toward you.

The world is being remolded right now. Church meetings, Christian education, worship, choir, and counseling are all happening in new online ways. I suspect they will not disappear once the lay of the land becomes kinder to getting together. Even fellowship: you will receive a Zoom invitation for us all to gather for a “Zoom Coffee Hour” for a Sunday at noon in mid to late May. Check your email for the invitation after May 14. It is not perfect, but it is a way.

The path is not clear to us but God’s faithfulness to us is as clear as the Cross of Love. “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith.” (Hebrews 12: 1-2)

We will get there. Together by faith.

In His love,

Pastor Bill Damrow

Rev. Dr. William J. Damrow, Pastor

HOPE NEWS

On April 17th the National Guard honored the staff and volunteers of HOPE with a surprise ceremony commemorating the work they had done during the COVID-19 crisis. Each member received a special National Guard coin in recognition of their services. Filomena received special mention for the meals she has been providing for the troops.



HOPE has begun mobile pantries giving out food bags in the city parks while continuing to provide hot dinners as take-out. It is now partnering with several local businesses to support its soup kitchen. One such dinner was supplied by Mini's Latin Fusion.

At the time of writing HOPE had raised \$125,000 in its COVID 19 fundraiser, nearing its goal of \$150,000. The non-profit was also approved for \$85,000 as part of the forgivable Paycheck Protection loan.

Hope Cook Update from Social Ministry Cook Team:

Hope Community Services is serving dinner (on a take-out basis to observe social distancing) 5 nights a week- up from 2-3 nights a week. A very small staff is aided by a small group from the National Guard. (The same group serves in order to track the health of the crew.) In March and April, St. Luke's was able to fulfill its promise to provide one cooked meal a month for at least 150 people by relying on pre-cooked meats.

HOPE is grateful that the community is responding to its fundraiser, but the fall off in donated pantry items is missed. Contributions to Hope Community Services in any amount through its website can help.

Yes, the church building is closed, but the church is not!

ST. LUKE'S IS ON FACEBOOK

We now have a public page on Facebook where we can share our worship videos and choir music. This is the virtual door to our church where we can welcome new friends in and share God's Grace and love with them. If you are on Facebook, please go to the St. Luke's New Rochelle, NY page and share our posts so people in your network can see why St. Luke's means so much to you. Like our page and invite others in your network to join us.



Eventually, when we can get together again, this is where we will post public events and activities as well. Please don't confuse this FB page with our St. Luke's New Rochelle FB group. That is a closed group for members of St. Luke's only.

CHOIR NOTES AND NEWS

From the CHOIR DIRECTOR: Iryna Arbatska:

“When we, as a choir, entered this alien ground of distance singing and practicing I had no idea how challenging and yet rewarding this whole experience would become. At first, I was hopeful that Zoom would give us an opportunity to have a choir practice that would allow us to sing as a group. My high hopes were soon crashed when we all realized that it would not work like this as the system only allowed one person to speak or sing at a time.



When I ran into the Acapella app it felt that God heard our prayers. Yes, there is a way for our choir to sing together! It requires tremendous work for all of us, as well as courage to dive into this techno world, but

we tried and we succeeded. We now have a plan to record one Hymn a week, and I am hoping to start working on the anthems once we get more familiar with the app.

This past month was very rewarding by means of our collective work, effort and a desire to sing amidst these hazy times. It brought us together and gave us a sense that life continues.”

Other choir members voiced their opinions of their experience learning and using the Acapella app:

“I did not find it difficult, even for an 80 year old (smile) I wrote down the steps Iryna explained, then followed the format,” said Thyra Brooks, soprano . “I had several trials singing trying to improve my voice, then made one recording and did not redo it.”

“It was a tough start as I am computer challenged,” said Larry Head, bass, “but with Iryna’s encouragement and hand holding we did it! I’d be lost without Gloria’s help in following what Iryna wanted me to do.”

“It was a bit easier the second time, and I imagine it’ll get easier as we go.” said Pat Damrow, alto. “I enjoy it and would love to try other options, maybe a trio? Quartet or perhaps a call and response hymn? ”



(Article continues on next page)

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From Zach Carter:

You would think that the simple act of singing together online would be a piece of cake. Well it's not. Have you ever been on a conference call and tried to get a word in edgewise when someone is talking on and on without taking a breath? You cannot interrupt them no matter how hard you try because technology does not permit it. Only one person can talk at a time on a conference call. And guess what? Only one person can sing at a time on a conference call - yes, that's right, no multi-part harmony - only one person can sing at a time.



So if you have enjoyed any of those band or choral performances circulating recently on line produced by musicians quarantined in their separate homes, those musicians were not performing together in real time. Each musician recorded their part separately and these recordings were combined together at the end. That's right 20 musicians, twenty separate recordings!

That was the challenge undertaken by your choir and your intrepid choir director , Iryna Arbatska. Iryna turned us on to a music production app called Acapella that permitted the choir, one voice at a time, to record our separate parts of the hymns you have now heard performed. No studio - no fancy equipment - just a healthy sense of adventure, fun, and mission. And we are all now more computer literate.

THANK YOU, ST. LUKE'S

*Thank you for your gift of \$1,918 to ELCA World Hunger.
Your generosity is getting at the root causes of hunger and
poverty in over 60 countries including the United States
You are creating new beginnings. Thank you for sharing the
hope of new life and the fullness of Christ's joy. – In Christ,
The Rev. Robin Brown, Mission Funding Director,
Congregations. ELCA World Hunger February 26, 2020*

You are
Appreciated

GREETINGS FROM ST. LUKE'S FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The Fellowship Committee would like to wish all of our Mothers a wonderful, happy, Mother's Day!

We look forward to that day when we are all together again. Prayerfully it will be sooner rather than later. In the meantime, let's reach out to each other, through emails, texts and phone calls. Pastor has done wonderful inspirational and thoughtful daily posts and weekly Church Services on video; if you are not receiving them, please let us know.

As we do not know when we will be reopened, and pray that it is sooner rather than later, we still look forward to the rest of Spring, Summer and Fall. We are assuming at this point that the Spring Sale will not happen on May 2nd. We may just cancel and plan for the Holiday Boutique in the Fall in November. This will be a much needed fundraiser by that time.

Don't forget, our Lutheran Retreat Center, Koinonia, in Highland Falls, may be ready for our family retreat in October. Save the date and keep those prayers coming for October 16th, 17th and 18th. We will keep you posted.

If you know of anyone that needs our assistance or fellowship, please let us know.

If you would like to join our committee on a regular basis, please let us know.

Gratefully yours, and God Bless you all on Mother's Day!

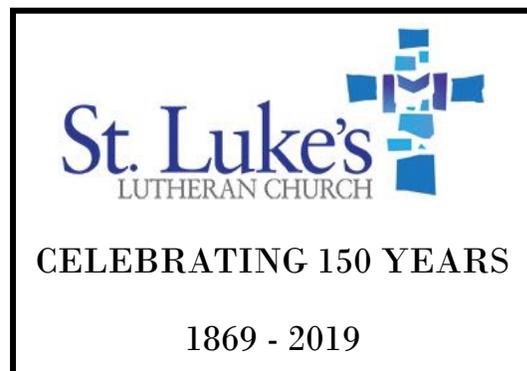
Pat and Dawn

P.S. Remember, our church is only as strong as its members and we are so lucky and so thankful to have such great friends and members as you. Thank you all for being part of St. Luke's fellowship this year. If anyone would like to join us, whether for an event or to join the committee please let us know... God bless you all

Pat Damrow email: PatDamrow@hotmail.com and Dawn McEvoy email: Mmcevoy33@aol.com



Fellowship events at St Luke's are collaboratively sponsored by the Fellowship committee, St. Luke's Sunday School, the Stewardship committee, the Evangelism committee and the Youth Group. ... This is what Fellowship is all about, and we are always looking for new faces to join us in furthering our fellowship ministry. If you would like to support any of the events or join the committee, please contact us.



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

from the SUNDAY SCHOOL & YOUTH GROUP

Here's to all the wonderful mother's in our church family. May we know them, may we appreciate them may we be them! God bless you all with good health and happiness.

We are sorry that Easter was Virtual, as Mother's Day will be as well. Who knows what June will bring. We pray for better, safer days ahead soon.

IN THE MEANTIME. . .

We have sent weekly emails to the Sunday school families with activities the children (and families) can do together. Please share with your kids. As you are having daily at home school time be sure to incorporate Sunday School time. We all need to be reminded that God is always with us and with Jesus all things are possible.

We will be continuing sending weekly lessons until we are back together again. For those on Facebook there are great activities for the kids to do while staying safe ... I will share those as well. A scavenger hunt in the park, a bear hunt in your neighborhood, putting up rainbows or for Sunday school lets do Butterflies for Easter. Write inspiration messages along the side walk, leave a message or a treat for a neighbor; ALL ways to spread God's love during this time.

Our confirmation class has resumed! We are so excited to see our children continuing with Pastor.

Please feel free to email me at any time mmcevoy33@aol.com if you need anything!

Thank you to all that have donated to the Sunday School. Please continue to use your Sunday School envelopes! You can send them in with your weekly church contributions.

Sunday school is every Sunday from 10-11:15 except for school holidays. Children worship with their own liturgy service and then attend age appropriate classes. They have their own lessons and receive their own stewardship envelopes for weekly contributions. The Sunday School is self-supporting through their own contributions. That includes lessons, books, supplies, materials, etc. It is never too early to learn about being good stewards! Please see us for your Child's envelopes. We need your support! If your child would like to join the Junior Choir and/or the Youth Group please see us for more information. As always, check out the bulletin board, ask your child "what they learned today". It takes a village, and in our case, A Congregation is our village. THANK YOU ALL!



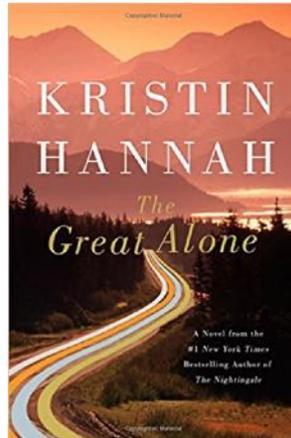
Yours in Christ,
Dawn McEvoy, Superintendent and High School
Jen Battaglino, 2nd-5th grade
Vicky McEvoy, Shari Taylor, Beg-1st grade,
Jacob Kuligowski, Sara Battaglino; Assistants
Karen Fontecchio, Assistant Superintendent;
Traci Daniele, Treasurer



ST. LUKE'S BOOK CLUB CORNER

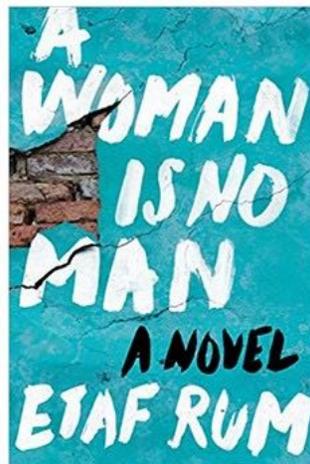
May book title:

THE GREAT ALONE by Kristin Hannah



June book title:

A WOMAN IS NO MAN by Etaf Rum



St. Luke's Book Club was meeting once a month in the church kitchen at 7:30 on a Thursday evening. . We are all looking forward to the time when we can resume meeting and all be together again. Everyone is most welcome to join in. But until then: keep reading!

AROUND THE PARISH

*Our thoughts
and prayers
Are with you*

In our Prayers this month are all those hospitalized, with health concerns, in transition, all those undergoing further tests, treatments, or healing, those who have died in the Lord and the grieving, especially *Susan Johansen-Shiels and family* upon the death of Susan's mother, *Allis Johansen*, and *Renee Taylor and family* upon the passing of Renee's mother, *Catherine Hamilton*.

MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

5/1	Denise Tolles Shari Taylor	5/19	Tina Prout-Stoody
5/2	Thomas Breen Sean Taylor	5/20	Marcia Carol Hild
5/3	Mrs. Harold Waller	5/21	Victoria McEvoy
5/6	Olivia Connors	5/22	Nancy LoPresti Michael Dassler
5/9	Aikande Mallya	5/24	Matthew Brent Conor Ahyoung
5/10	Carmen Thompson Faith Forsberg	5/26	Douglas Smith Susan Johansen-Shiels
5/11	Karen DiBiccari		Matthieu Rankis Amelia Bengé
5/12	Leam McEvoy Melissa Rubicco Samantha Eves	5/27	Roberta Dassler Karen Fontecchio
5/15	Sherry Fraser-Pulvermiller	5/28	Megan Fontecchio
5/16	Daniel Brisson	5/29	Margaret Lenz
5/17	David Hallman John Rubicco	5/31	Kristen Johnson-Head

Anniversaries

5/3	Michael & Nadia Dassler
5/5	Erik & Kim Walder
5/15	Richard & Patricia Tobin
5/18	Clifford & Roberta Dassler
5/19	Kristen & Matthew Head
5/21	Margaret & Michael Nicolais
5/22	Joan Bast-Rodriguez & William Rodriguez
5/29	Jason & Suzanne Head

Thank you to the Patrons of St. Luke's Voice – 2020

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The Church Online®

St. Luke's

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