

St. Luke's Voice

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

July—August 2020

St. Luke's

Lutheran

Church

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NEW YORK 10801

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DAMROW, PASTOR

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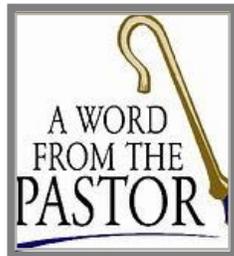
For Sunday
Worship

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Newsletter Editor: Pat
Fredericks.

Renee Taylor: Produc-
tion.

The Lord of Hinges and Hope



We are living in the time of the great pivot. So many things are changing that it is difficult to keep up or to know whether in the end they will be a blessing or a curse. The biblical view is likely a little of both.

One thing is for sure, we are at a hinge in history.

Yet especially now, God is the help of those who seek Him. One of my favorite psalms is Psalm 121, especially the last two verses:

⁷ *The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.*

⁸ *The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.*

Our “going out and coming in” describes not only the history of our church, but also the door at home through which we have met the world in new ways. Our coming in and going out have likely never been so few as we stayed at home. The thoughts of fear and hope have also gone out and come back in to us in unexpected ways – to shop, walk, see family in a drive by visit, call hello to a neighbor across the street, hear the sounds of silence, dreams ---all have come and gone daily

The hinge of our heart has opened and closed, as we have tried to grasp some understanding and solace each day.

Los Angeles writer Lauren DePino wrote an article recently, “Separation Anxiety? Try Holding a Hinge”. She reveals that she grew fascinated by door hinges of every kind, because they remind her of pivotal life changes. “We come and go through our own doorways only so many times. Every entrance and exit is singular. Each instance the hinge fulfills its function is extraordinary. Without hinges, our doors would get stuck ---and so would we.”

So DePino carries a small hinge on her grandmother’s gold chain “like a holy metal”.

The pivotal moments of our lives are also the hinge moments of God’s presence. God preserves our going out and our coming in, every day, as well as the end of our lifetime. Our goodbyes and our hellos, perhaps the places we fear the most, are the times we know God in Christ is with us.

No ready answers. No agenda. God’s Presence is the answer. Christ’s Presence is the agenda.

These past four months have been filled with sudden change, pivotal moments, opening, and closing and opening again. Phases have rushed upon us, history welled up, and we have hope even as the future is uncertain. We press on from the pivot because time is moving forward, always to the unexpected Hope.

Christ is the hinge of our lives and of history. Hold on.

In His Name,

Pastor Bill Damrow

Rev. Dr. William J. Damrow, Pastor



SOME CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION

The two items below are from a brochure titled "News & Information from the City of New Rochelle, New York – Special Coronavirus Information Issue, Spring 2020." While this brochure is a local publication, the information it contains is pertinent and important for us all, no matter where we live.

1. New York State, Montefiore and City of New Rochelle have a Walk-through Testing Center on Lockwood Avenue, across from Glover Johnson Place, and are open 9 - 5, Monday - Friday, by appointment - call 1-888-364-3065. This testing center is managed by several folks on Pat Damrow's team at Montefiore.

2. New York State Contact Tracing - if you get a call from "NYS Contact Tracing" (518-387-9993) ANSWER the PHONE!

As we continue to fight coronavirus together, tracing exposures to COVID is important to stop the spread. The NYS Contact Tracing Program works with confirmed positive COVID-19 people to determine who they may have been in contact with. Trained specialists reach out to those contacts about possible exposure. If you have been identified as a contact, you will get a call from "NYS Contact Tracing" (518-387-9993). Because the disease can be transmitted without symptoms, notifying people about a possible exposure is critical to stop the spread. So please answer the phone. It is confidential and private.

CHURCH COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING



At a Special Meeting of the Congregation Council via Zoom on June 30th, the Re-

opening Task Force Committee submitted a proposal for holding a single in-building service on July 12th and a single outdoor service on August 9th. After discussion, a motion was made to reject the committee's proposal, and to hold no on-site service in July and to hold a single outdoor service on August 9th, subject to re-evaluation of conditions and re-approval at the next regular Council meeting. The motion carried with one dissenting vote.

VACATION DAYS

Pastor Damrow will be on vacation July 15-29 and August 12-26. (Beginning and returning dates are a little fluid right now.) - A printed Service of the Word for those Sundays will be posted and a link sent out as usual. We will also send a link to our synod worship services. Our Organist/Choir Director Iryna Arbatska will be on vacation the weeks around Sunday, August 23 and 30.

HELPING HANDS

A small group from St. Luke's Social Ministry will help a refugee family over the next few weeks by partnering with Helping Hands. The goal is to support a refugee family in Westchester County who have hit a bump in the road and need temporary help. It is hard enough settling into a new culture and country but Covid -19 has left many refugees unemployed with reduced incomes and no extended family or network to help them.

Catholic Charities finds the refugee family and sits down with them to create a finite Wish List of their needs. Typically, this is for clothing, household items and gift cards. Hearts and Homes for Refugees also supports Helping Hands by suggesting sources of products, and by helping with training. Four project leaders from Social Ministry were scheduled to receive training via Zoom on July 2 and St. Luke's will then be assigned a refugee family in need.



This pilot program will investigate how best to partner with these organizations. Social Ministry is grateful to all the volunteers who offered their time and support. If you wish to join this small group or find out more about future projects, please contact Elizabeth Brent at Elizabeth.lizzieb718@gmail.com.

HELLO, SUNDAY SCHOOL

We hope you had a wonderful end to your school year. . .we hope graduations and moving up ceremonies were fun.

Congratulations to our high school graduates: Vicky, Sara, Stephanie, Rachel, Sam and Jacob. Thank you for being such important and active members of our church and Sunday school. Please keep us posted on where you are and what you're doing. May God bless each of you as you continue your journey into college and beyond . . . remember your church family is always here !!



With regard to Sunday school: as mentioned in prior emails, we will be sending you vacation bible school ("VBS") lessons on a weekly basis. Please take some time to share with the children – participate with them. It will keep them hearing and sharing God's good news over the summer !!

Stay safe and stay strong, St. Luke's!!!
Happy summer!!!

Dawn, Jen, Vicky, Shari, Jacob, Karen and Traci

ST. LUKE'S VOLUNTEERS COOK FOR HOPE

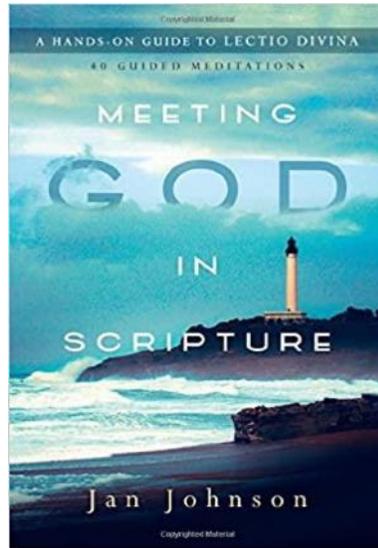


St. Luke's June dinner contribution to Hope Community Services was assembled in the Church kitchen by the team of Joan Bast, Elizabeth Brent, Joy Mitchell and Denise Tolles. The dinner featured many trays of pre-cooked chicken strips in broth with sides of rice, hash brown potatoes and broccoli. Hope continues to serve take-out dinner five evenings a week and, as always, sends its profuse thanks to the Congregation for its help.

The next Hope cook/assemble is on or about Saturday, July 18th. If you would like to participate, please email Denise Tolles at ddink629@aol.com. This is a masked and socially distanced gathering enlisting 3-4 people.

Hope is in need of volunteers. If you are able to help, please visit Hope's website."

LECTIO DIVINA (divine reading)



Please come join us as we explore a formational understanding of scripture called Lectio Divina. Lectio Divina, Latin for “divine reading” gives us a structure for praying with scripture. “It is a practice of Scripture reading that treats the Bible not only as a text to be examined, but also as the living Word of God spoken anew to us.”

We will use the scripture meditations that Jan Johnson provides to guide our discussions. Each week will have a different focus. Topics include What Does God Think of Me; Who Am I and How Do I Fit In; Living in the Reality of God’s Kingdom; Being Transformed Into Christ’s Likeness; Facing Fears, Frustrations, and Discouragement; Healing Life’s Wounds; Having the Heart of Christ for Others; and Partnering with God in Ministry.

One reviewer shared that “God delights to meet with his children in Scripture, and if you’re ready to try out a different approach, let Jan Johnson, an experienced and trusted Bible teacher, lead the way with this sound and practical guide.”

Please join us via Zoom for eight **Thursdays, June 25th through August 13th from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.**

It is important that you **RSVP to Deacon Nancy Sigler, at nls11@optonline.net** so you can receive the Zoom invitation.

Meeting God in Scripture by Jan Johnson can be purchased through Amazon. If you need assistance purchasing it, please let Nancy know and she will order it for you and have it mailed directly to your home.

BOOK CLUB CORNER

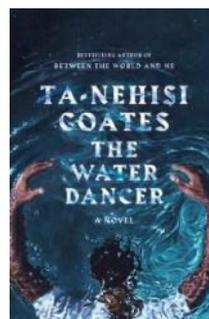
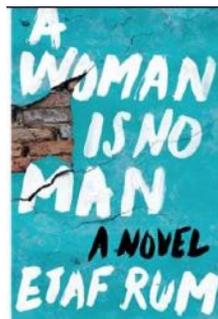
St. Luke's Book Club met via ZOOM on June 15, at 7:00 P.M. This virtual gathering was a very different experience for many of us. Once a few glitches were worked out, we launched into our usual lively and provocative discussion. We were eight members strong, each in our own little box on screen. Everyone had ample opportunity to comment, contribute and share their point of view.

Our point of departure focused on Alaska as a character in Kristin Hannah's novel *The Great Alone*. The author presents both the grandeur and the ever-present danger in the Last Frontier. *It was otherworldly somehow, magical in its vast expanse. An incomparable landscape.* The solitude and danger were part of the fabric of this novel.

Hannah so totally immerses her reader in the wild setting that one experiences the challenging aspects of survival, the climate and interdependence among neighbors. We discussed the similarities shared by the Alaskan homesteaders and the American pioneers. We gained understanding about what draws people to the wild, unpredictable and remote corners of Alaska.

We also noted the numerous parallels of the turbulent 1960's and 1970's with our current times. The unrest and troubles of those decades are sadly still relevant today. Many of us remembered our own participation in Anti-Vietnam War protests and peace marches. We recalled the tragic assassinations of President Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X and Robert F. Kennedy. These historical facts and cultural references helped frame the novel. We now know about PTSD. Ernt, a major character, was a prisoner of war for many years. According to his wife, Cora, he returned from the war a changed man. He was depressed, moody, explosive and violent.

Why do women stay with abusive men? This question set off a great discussion. Everyone expressed their own opinions about this astonishing and sad fact. One of the issues highlighted in the novel is the lack of legal support for battered women. We concluded that this injustice still exists today. A poignant aspect in the novel is the mother-daughter love story, but one with a broken spine. We talked about how the toxicity of the parents' dysfunctional, violent marriage influenced their daughter's life.



We will meet (via ZOOM) in late July to discuss *A Woman Is No Man* by Etaf Rum.

HAPPY SUMMER from YOUR FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

We hope this newsletter finds everyone and their families safe and healthy ..
We know this has been difficult for all of us to stay separated from each other ..
We pray that we will be able to see you soon.

Thank you to Cathie Behrend for baking her breads for the cancelled spring sale and donating over \$300 to St.Luke's.



If anyone needs anything please reach out. If anyone wants to help others, we know HOPE Community Services is always in need.
Stay strong St. Luke's!
'til we meet again...
Pat and Dawn

AROUND THE PARISH



In Our Prayers this month are all those hospitalized, with health concerns, in transition, all those undergoing further tests or treatments or healing, especially Terry Glatz, Rev. Marv Henk and Gail Olsen, those who have died in the Lord and the grieving, especially Paula Hayes and family on the death of Paula's mother.

Memorials have been received for Tom Roksvold given by Steve and Gail Olsen and for Catherine Hamilton from Renee and Bill Taylor.

JULY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

July Birthdays

7/2	Trina Lenz	7/14	Axel Distasio
7/5	Courtney Brisson	7/15	Daniel Kehou
7/7	Lindsey Kuligowski	7/16	Samantha Mitze
7/8	Kristine Kuligowski	7/17	Cayden Shellukindo
	Barbara Bersito	7/18	Herbert Doerr
	Shane Sparano	7/19	Ryan Tupper
7/9	Teresa Montalvo	7/21	Michael Amato
7/11	Benjamin Blake	7/28	Henry Doerr
7/12	Christopher Santizo	7/30	Karina Calabro
7/13	Resha Conroy	7/31	Walter Mitze

July Anniversaries



7/2	Nancy & Joseph LoPresti
7/4	Robert & Elizabeth Brent
7/14	Rosalind & Ernest Wallace
7/16	Joe Triolo & Jeniece Oliveras-Triolo
7/24	Corinne & Matthew Blake
7/25	Amy & Joseph Lloyd
7/31	Douglas & Dorothy Smith

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

August Birthdays

8/4	Barbara McLaughlin	8/15	Reign Williamson
8/5	Ashley LeBoeuf	8/17	Edward Walder Cait Elser
8/6	Ernest Wallace	8/18	Bob Lepple
8/8	Lorraine Helfer	8/21	Kristina Roksvold
8/10	Danielle Tolles Brian Dassler	8/26	Ed Schroeder Gary LeBoeuf
8/12	Annette Anderson-Georgioudakis Camille Brock	8/28	Catherine Elser Linda Skillen
8/13	Patrice Mitchell Dominic Summa	8/29	Joy Mitchell Jacob Damrow
8/14	Faith Bissinger		

August Anniversaries

8/5	Cathy & Stephen O'Rourke
8/8	Alan & Karen Fontecchio Lydia & Frank Bersito Herbert & Mary Doerr
8/10	Melbourne & Renee Taylor
8/17	Peter & Martha Johnson
8/18	Rev. Dr. William & Pat Damrow
8/26	Steven & Gail Olsen
8/28	John & Claudia Rubicco



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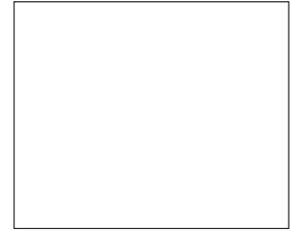
Lilian Warren

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July—August
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