



## Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

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*Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church is a Christ-centered family dedicated to reaching out to our community, teaching God's Word, caring for one another and sharing God's genuine love.*

**Church Newsletter**

**July 2020**

**We've  
Re-Opened!**

# Our Re-Opening

## Questions and Answers

**WHEN DID WE RE-OPEN?** The State and County permitted limited church re-openings on May 31; we re-opened on June 14 since we required additional time to prepare. We were worshiping around 50 before the shut-down. Our first Sunday of in-person worship had 31 in attendance (plus many more participating in the online streaming). The second week was up to 41 and the third back to 31. Because of health issues or concerns, some of our family is choosing to remain in isolation and we fully respect that.

**WHO HELPED WITH OUR RE-OPENING?** *This was no simple task!* The State alone issued 13 pages of detailed regulations for churches! We established an ad hoc committee to work through all this and do all necessary for our re-opening. This committee consisted of Ian Andrews, Josh Cerny and Bruce Woodward. They spent *COUNTLESS* hours on this and worked hard to implement the many, many things needed for 'in-person' worship. We are SO thankful to Ian, Josh and Bruce! And they continue to serve as we work out "bugs" and try to improve things.

**WHAT DO I NEED TO DO WHEN I COME FOR WORSHIP?** Okay, there are government regulations (what is, is – regardless of how we may feel about that) but there is a moral issue here – the Fifth Commandment, and the need to respect and protect the life and health of ourselves and (more importantly) that of others. We ask your cooperation in the following...

- Please stay home (and participate online) if you have been advised to do so or if you are sick.
- Before, during and after the service, please wear a mask while speaking, singing and within 6 feet of non-family members. Note, you don't need to wear a mask during the service when just listening (during the readings and sermon, for example).
- Please seat yourself, but please retain 6 feet between your family group and that of others. Ask an usher for help if needed.
- Please, no handshakes or hugs.
- The offering plate won't be passed around; please place your offering in the offering box near the door.

**WHAT ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION?** This is a great blessing and it is being included each week. Great lengths have been made to keep this as safe as possible and to abide by all mandates and guidelines (MUCH thanks to Margaret Paton who really works hard on this), but some may want to abstain for the time being, and that's respected. You will not be ushered; you and your family group may come as you desire. Line up in the center but remember that 6 foot rule and to wear your mask. Of course, you may lower your mask to receive the Body and Blood but then restore it.

**WHAT ARE WE DOING TO KEEP THINGS SANITARY?** Just some of the things we're doing...

- Just before worship, everything is sanitized... the chairs, door knobs, etc., etc. Keith Neblett has been doing this for us and he's very conscientious.



- We have “touchless” hand sanitizers available, as well as masks (in case you forgot) and gloves (not required but available if you so desire)
- Bulletins are “throw away” and handed to you by ushers wearing gloves.
- No offering plates are being passed about
- When weather permits, doors and windows will be open to permit good air circulation; when the A/C is required, we have added a special hepa filter suggested by the State.
- Communion bread and wine are available in ways that make it very unlikely to be touched by another; the one who prepares this wears gloves. Nothing is retained for the following week.

**WHAT ABOUT STREAMING THE SERVICE ONLINE?** During the three months of shut-down, we streamed the service on our website and also on our facebook page. Unfortunately, there’s no way to know who or how many so participated. Nonetheless, we did seem to be gathering quite a following – including relatives and friends in other parts of the country. We want to continue reaching out to these! And of course, some of our local family is continuing to remain isolated at home due to health issues and concerns, and we respect and support that and very much want to embrace them. So, it was decided we will continue to stream our worship service indefinitely, both on our website and our facebook page. We’re now working to improve the quality of this, purchasing new equipment, etc. Be patient, this is a work in progress.

**WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT STREAMING THE SERVICE?** Because we are now streaming an actual service with people present, there’s a new issue, one of personal privacy and laws governing this. While we are attempting to not show faces or broadcast full names, be aware that *could* happen. At Disneyland, as you enter, you find a small sign that announces that you could be included in some scene being filmed at the park... well, we don’t have a sign like that but that could happen. We probably have fewer than 100 ever viewing our broadcast online, but... Also, when you volunteer for a ministry (reader, for example) you are giving your consent for this since in such a role, your face will likely be shown (and for this reason, minors need parental consent). We won’t have the kids come forward for the children’s message so that their faces will not be broadcast.

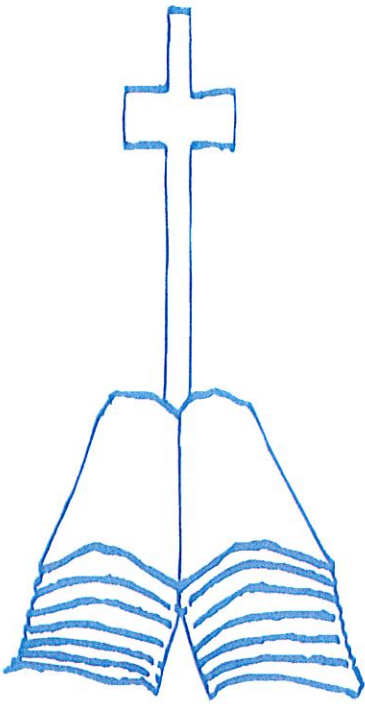
**WHAT ABOUT SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE STUDIES?** The State has not yet permitted Sunday School re-opening, although we expect that later this Summer. Meanwhile, our Education Team is preparing “kits” for the kids to take home and work on with their parents; these are given to the children each month. Adults *are* permitted, so we have re-opened our Sunday Adult Class. We meet at 9:00 in the Community Building, practicing social distancing and wearing masks. We’re already back to the numbers we had before! We are also continuing to stream this for our shut-ins. The Saturday Women’s Study continues, too – but only online. And the Men’s Study on the Second Sunday is also back; they meet in-person at 9:00 in the Community Building (temporarily, the breakfast part is discontinued).

**WHAT ABOUT REFRESHMENTS?** This is still being evaluated. For the time being, it’s discontinued. As are the monthly lunch potlucks. BUT this does NOT mean that fellowship time is discontinued! You are encouraged to stick around after the service! Just remember that 6 foot thing and the masks.

**WHAT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?** Speak with the pastor or the Re-Opening Committee.



# Bible Study



**Pastor's Sunday Bible Study.** We meet at 9:00 AM in the Community Building, practicing social distancing and with masks and things sanitized. We are continuing our study of the Lord's Prayer, beginning with an insightful and inspirational look at prayer. Jump in and get in the habit. We also stream this at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86292069694> for those away and isolated.

**Women's Study - Fellowship** is online (only) each Saturday at 9:00 AM. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/641834201>

**Mern's Breakfast - Bible Study - Fellowship** Saturday, July 11, 9:00 in the Community Building.

Is there something YOU'D like to study? A spiritual topic or biblical book perhaps? We can probably make it happen! Would you like to host a home Bible study but don't want to actually lead it? We'd be glad to work with you, leading the study! JUST CONTACT K.... K Berni is the Team Leader of Education Ministry. We'd LOVE to add more studies! We can do these "in person" or streaming online or both!

## From Our Education Team

*K Berni, Gail Adams, Diane Finley, Margie Latall*

### Kid's Konnection:

The Education Team gave three new ESV children's Bibles to Zoey, Kacie and Sadie as a farewell gift as the Epps family moves to Japan.

Due to pandemic regulations, Kid's Konnection will not be meet during July and August but we will send home lessons and crafts in a take-home packets. Hopefully, we'll be able to have "in person" gatherings soon.

### Bible Study:

Note that our Sunday Bible Class is back and meeting both in-person and online. Our Women's Study continues to meet online (only) each Saturday morning, and our Men's group meets now in person on the Second Saturday of each month at 9:00. If you are interested in studying some Book of the Bible or some Christian topic, let the Team know, we are eager to begin new study groups.





# *Shepherd of the Valley Painting Ministry*

Have you ever wanted to paint? Never tried? Don't know what to do? That's great! We'd love to show you!

Pam Gosdis is the coordinator and instructor. She is extremely talented and a great teacher!

Join us on July 5 (and then generally on the first Sunday of every month) at 12:00 Noon for a step-by-step painting class. We spend 2-3 hours focusing on creativity and just good fun. You are welcome to bring snacks and drinks.

Please bring masks. And because of social distancing needs, the class is being limited to 10.

Material fee of \$20.00 is to be paid in advance of the class.

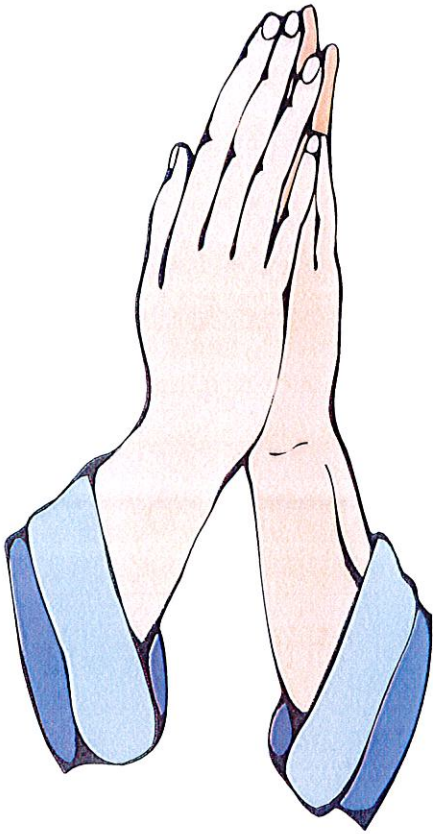
EVERYONE is welcomed, so invite those friends, neighbors and co-workers!

It is required that all register so supplies can be readied. Please go to:

<http://hiddenkittyart.com/class-calendar>



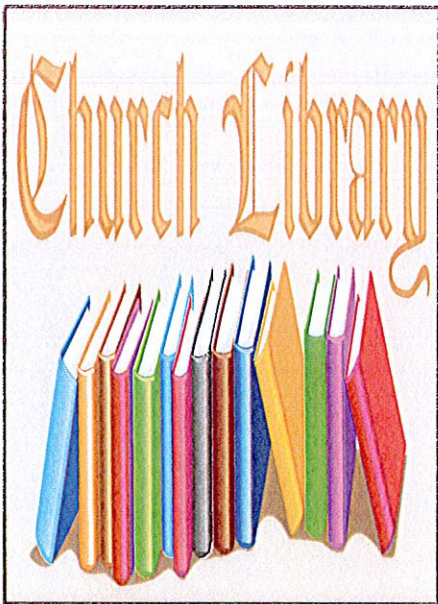
# Daily Prayers, Bible Reading and Devotions



Except on Sunday, our church sends out a daily email containing prayers for our family and also prayer requests. It is essentially our prayer group. Additionally, there is included a short, inspirational daily devotion prepared by Lutheran Hour Ministries and the daily Bible readings from the the Lutheran lectionary.

The Saturday mailing also contains the Sunday readings we'll be looking at in worship, as well as the sermon topic and information about Sunday activities.

It's free, but you must subscribe! Just email [kolkmanallen@gmail.com](mailto:kolkmanallen@gmail.com) to get added to the list.



## New Church Library

*K Berni, Librarian*

We now have a wonderful church library!  
We have 300 books (mostly donated by our pastor) available to you!  
These cover a wide range of Christian interests, topics and needs!

It's on the "honor system"  
Just borrow what you want and please return it in a timely manner.

Check it out! It's at the rear of the chapel.

## Bible Study: “Civility and Conversation”

Conflict has been around for a long time! It's a result of sin and it's been around for as long as sin has. Will Rogers once said, “Where two or three are gathered together, there's going to be a fight!” And sadly, he had a point. While conflict resolution is an important (and big) topic – one we should address FAR more often and intentionally – here we're going to look at just one aspect of this: the attitude that enflames and the attitude that resolves.

### There is Wrong!

Yup. Everywhere. Sometimes, big time!

This TOO is a result of sin.... And it's been around since Adam and Eve. ALL people are sinners and thus ALL people sin. **ALL** Liberals and Conservatives, Atheists and Christians. Women and men. Whites and Blacks. Old and Young. Rich and poor. Capitalists and Communists. Gays and Straights. Even Americans. Even Presidents. Even the one each sees in the mirror (let that soak in). Yup. Where there are people, there are sinners who *therefore* sin. I'm certainly not saying that's good, just saying that's how it is. Always has been, always will be (this side of Heaven). Don't let it shock you **TOO** much. And don't forget, it includes you TOO. And ME!

This awareness might bring about some humility... and the insight that self is likely a part of the problem (and the solution).

Matthew 7:3-5, “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.”

- ***What's Jesus' point?***
- ***What's Jesus' point in calling the other guy “brother?”***
- ***Might “brother” have something in his eye? Does “brother” still apply?***
- ***We ALL love to look out the window at others. Where does Jesus suggest we look?***

Back in the 1950's and early 1960's, there was a very popular folk song (entirely abandoned in the mid 1960's and forgotten today). Here are the lyrics: *Let there be peace on earth And let it begin with me. Let There Be Peace on Earth The peace that was meant to be. With God as our Father Brothers all are we. Let me walk with my brother In perfect harmony. Let peace begin with me Let this be the moment now. With ev'ry step I take Let this be my solemn vow To take each moment and live Each moment in peace eternally Let there be peace on earth And let it begin with me,*”

- ***Today, in our signs and slogans, in our news and books, in our posts on social media, in our politics, do we speak of “brothers?” If we do, does that mean “whoever reflects me” or does it mean ‘all people?’ What LABELS do people love today? Do they tend to be positive, mutually embracing? Or do they sometimes serve to be divisive and/or defaming (even if not so intended)? Are they intended to encourage discussion or terminate it?***



- ***This folk song of over a half century ago, where is the call for change focused?***
- ***Can we change self? Can we change others? Why might we prefer others change rather than self? Why are we SO focused on what OTHERS should do?***

Of course, wrong is not to be embraced or tolerated. Wrong is, after all, wrong.

Matthew 21:12-13, "Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. He said to them, 'It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you make it a den of robbers.'"

Ezekiel 16:1, "Again the word of the Lord came to me: 'Make known to Jerusalem her abominations'"

Proverbs 31:8, "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who cannot speak for themselves."

Because there is sin .... and thus wrong.... there is always a need for change and an appropriate protest. Our nation and our denomination were both born out of that.

## **Rancor... Incivility....**

Bob Dole entered government in 1961. In 1996, he said "When I got to Washington, people had just as strong of views as they do now. But we respected each other, we talked to each other, and we often worked out something, although it often involved a number of Martinis." What he decried was not as bad in 1996 as it is now.

Today, there is much rancor.... From **all** sides (*no position has a monopoly here*). There is often a very caustic milieu, a very toxic environment. We seem to live in an increasingly binary age of me vs. all who don't think/feel like me. Radicalism and divisiveness are increasingly common.

Sometimes people aren't talking **TO** each other but **AT** each other.... "I disagree" sometimes is replaced with "You're stupid, you're bad." There's aren't too many "I" messages and LOTS of "you" messages.

And "sides" in these battles love slogans. They are often *meant* to be incendiary and "in your face", although often they do not convey what is actually meant (folks shouting these often need EXTENSIVE efforts to explain that what is meant is not at all what the slogan says) and serve to inflame and divide. They often contribute to the problem.

Historians will tell you this is nothing new. In our nation, things were even worse in the mid 1700's and the early to mid 1800's. A brief time in the mid 1960's was pretty bad, too (I was there!). But historians will tell you it seldom has reached the level we see today. And it seems to be getting worse....

Some blame the internet and social media. Those give a big (and unaccountable) "soap box" to EVERYONE creating a LOT of noise. Some feel the only way to get heard through the deafening din is to be radical, divisive, loud.... More so than the other guy. And sometimes flaming, ridiculing, mocking, perhaps even peppered with four-letter words are employed in this effort. Sometimes it's downright militant. Conversation, reconciliation, and understanding are often not the goal... sometimes it's not even changing minds/feelings. It seems for some, the all-consuming ambition is to get heard, to gather the like-minded, rally the camp, get as many "likes" and echo comments and affirmations of self as possible. SLOGANS may be the tool,



radicalization and divisiveness sometimes seem to be the objective. LABELS are employed. It separates all into us vs. them. CAMPS are created....and to get noticed, to get the audience, the "likes," the affirmation from others, the CAMPS may get more radical, more divisive, or just louder. And sometimes, when one even TRIES to intervene... well.... the attacks may come from all sides. It's not always this way, of course. And I'm cautious of those seeking BLAME (all "sides" have favorite targets) - we're **all** better spotting stuff in the other guy's eye.

Some point to frustration. Many are passionate....and they often feel unheard. "I'M NOT BEING HEARD" could be the motto of our decade. The result is the din gets louder... and it becomes even *harder* to be heard. And the frustration grows. And the downward spiral continues.

- ***Do YOU sense things have become more caustic, more divisive? Why/why not?***
- ***Does this milieu help or harm understanding, reconciliation, solutions?***
- ***Some decry violence. Can words, labels and slogans also be violent?***

## HOW matters

Often, the best way to put out a fire is not with gasoline...

Proverbs 15:1, "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."

Ecclesiastes 9:17, "The quiet words of the wise are more to be heeded than the loud shouts of fools."

Ecclesiastes 10:12, "Words from a wise man's mouth are gracious, but the fool just likes to hear his own voice."

James 1:19, "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slower still to become angry."

Ephesians 4:29, "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building up others."

Romans 14:19, "Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace."

Romans 12:18, "If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all."

Romans 12:21, "Overcome evil with good."

- ***What's the point of these Scriptures?***
- ***What verse confirms the adage, "God gave us two ears but only one mouth."***
- ***What verse above confirms the adage, "Anger causes anger."***

Proverbs 31:8, "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, defend those who cannot defend themselves."

Galatians 6:1, "Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, restore him but do so in a spirit of gentleness."

Ephesians 4:15, "Speak the truth but always with love."

James 1:19, "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slower still to become angry."

Ephesians 4:2-3, "With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bear one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

Philippians 2:3, "Do nothing from selfish ambition or personal pride, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves."

Colossians 3:8, "You must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language."

- ***Does Scripture tell us to be silent when there is wrong?***
- ***What ATTITUDE is essential? What ATTITUDE is destructive?***
- ***What speech/words are harmful and to be abandoned?***
- ***Does this apply to parents, school teachers, etc.? How can we teach/model this?***

There always will be wrongs and problems.... There always will be a need for correction.... There always will be different views.... there often will be passions, emotions, fears, hopes, anger, hurt....

- ***What specific advice would you give to your children? To yourself?***





# Community Roots Farm

From Our Farm

We have wonderful, organic, VERY fresh produce that you can buy! You'll get a large box of an assortment of produce (large enough to share) for just \$35.00.

Go to

<https://www.communityrootsfarm.org/product-page/weekly-farm-share-1-week>

## We'd LOVE to Welcome YOU

Last month, we welcomed two new members, both by youth Confirmation: Carlos Salvador Gallardo and Zoey Maddison Epps.

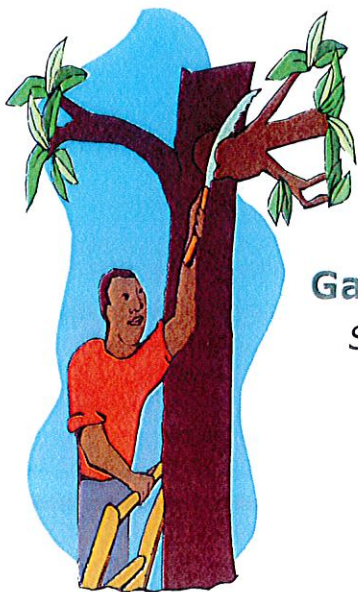
We'd love to welcome YOU, too!

If you have been Confirmed in a Lutheran church or hold membership in a Lutheran church elsewhere (even if it's inactive), we can easily embrace you here as an official member of the family and ministry of Shepherd of the Valley! And we *really* would like to do that!

Otherwise, we'd LOVE to include you in our introduction study and accept you soon through adult confirmation!

Interested? Questions? Speak with Dr. Kolkman *right away*!





# Property Improvement Event

**Saturday July 11 10:00 - Noon**

**Gardening, cleaning, painting, repairs, improvements**

*Something for **all** ages and abilities! We appreciate **YOUR** help!.*

Questions? Contact Bruce at [bruce\\_woodward@hotmail.com](mailto:bruce_woodward@hotmail.com)

**"Many hands make for light work!"**

## Serving Him in July

Ministry	07/05	07/12	07/19	07/26
Greeter	K. Andrews	M. Paton	Latalls	<b>OPEN</b>
Reader	K. Neblett	M. Paton	D. Finley	K. Berni
Usher 1	<b>OPEN</b>	K. Neblett	<b>OPEN</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
Usher 2	<b>OPEN</b>	T. Reilly	<b>OPEN</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
Acolyte	<b>OPEN</b>	<b>OPEN</b>	<b>OPEN</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
Child Center	<b>OPEN</b>	<b>OPEN</b>	<b>OPEN</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
Flowers	Cerny	Kolkman	Neemia	Finley
Sanitation	K. Neblett	K. Neblett	K. Neblett	K. Neblett

***Please let us know ASAP if you will volunteer for one of the several openings or if you cannot serve as scheduled. Thank you very much!***

## July Celebrations in Our Family

July 02	Linda Johnson	Birthday
July 07	Lois Friske	Birthday
July 10	Josh & Amanda Cerny	Anniversary (5)
July 10	Terry & Alba Reilly	Anniversary (10)
July 16	Carol Bass	Birthday
July 17	Allen & Debbie Kolkman	Anniversary (44)
July 17	Gordon Friske	Birthday
July 25	Wayne & Diane Finley	Anniversary (61)
July 28	Kathy Andrews	Birthday
July 29	Ian Galleisky	Birthday

Did we leave you off our list? We didn't mean to! Please contact the office and give us your dates!