MARIN LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Bridge Newsletter

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

June 2020

In another couple weeks we will mark three months of sheltering at home. It's been a long, long time. About every other week I get really frustrated at life right now. I long for the old routines of going to the office, speaking with Bev, members who stop by, people attending meetings, James and others. I miss doing work in Peet's at Northgate. I love the ritual—drinking my latte, reading, writing, praying, and occasionally running into neighbors, members and friends. I find myself crying out like the Psalmist, "How long O Lord?"

But it's not just me. We're all wondering how long? More specifically, when it comes to Sunday mornings: When will we be able to worship again in our beautiful sanctuary? As you might guess, this is a complex question. Most importantly what is the safest way to proceed? Secondly, what will worship be like and will it be meaningful when we are able to be together again in-person? (As of this writing the County of Marin has indicated that things might start to open up sometime between June 12th to the 14th.) The state however, has given its guidance for worship, including among other things, no gatherings before or after services, no communal singing or speaking, social distancing indoors and outdoors, and we can have no more than 25% of total occupancy in attendance.

On Monday June 15th our Council members will wrestle with this question of when we might worship again in our sanctuary. At that time, we will review the guidance, recommendations and considerations from our wider church, and from state and local governments. If you have thoughts or ideas on this question, please pass them on to me, (pastortomgable@gmail.com or text to 916-479-3308), or to our Council President Ann Marymor, (ann@marymor.com or text to 415-748-2410).

In the meantime, please keep Council members and all members and participants in our community—in your prayers. I am so thankful for the faithfulness of all who have been active in our congregation—whether through worship, giving, or in other ways. Weekly I'm amazed at the incredible abilities and talents of our music staff—Andrei and Laura, and our choir members. You have all been doing an amazing and inspiring job of leading the music for our worship. Thank you!

Peace,

Pastor Tom

Worship & Music

We hope you are enjoying "going to church" every Sunday. How nice it is to get together to sing and worship from wherever we are.

Our choir has been working hard to help bring music to our services. It has been a big learning experience, and we have heard we are getting better and better each week. A BIG thank you to Andrei and Laura for putting it all together. If you don't know, each choir member is sent the music and then records their voice. It is sent to Andrei who blends it all together. This is not an easy task, starts and stops are important in a song. Not hearing your choir neighbor makes it harder to stay on key, and keep the flow going (at least for me!) As much as the choir likes a challenge, I'm sure they will be happy to get back together.

As always if you have any suggestions on enhancing your church experience, please let us know.

Carol Cunliffe

Outreach

Outreach seems like an oxymoron in our present state of sheltering, doesn't it? How can we reach "out" when we are doing our best to stay "in?" We feel disconnected, especially if we live alone and have limited contact with others.

Marin Lutheran has done a fabulous job of electronic worship using Zoom and YouTube. However, most of us still feel that it "isn't quite the same" as in person.

No it isn't. It can never be, and doesn't purport to be so. Technology seems at odds with our Christian sense of community. Except if we think that technology has actually become our friend. What better way to "reach out" to those who might not have a church home than to invite them to a worship service or view a devotion? Technology can serve to be the first-step in "Outreach."

We all know friends and neighbors who are "searchers" but may have been reluctant to worship in-person. Perhaps they might be more inclined to participate in worship at what feels like a comfortable distance, a non-threatening first step. Then there are those who have "wandered from the flock" so to speak. Electronic worship could be just the right medium to coax them back into the community.

These searchers only need you to ask; people come to church when people invite them, then send them a link to MLC's Facebook or YouTube.

Most experts say electronic worship has changed the church, maybe forever. Zoom has been the single most useful tool in keeping us connected. And, even after we get back to "normal," technology will continue to hold a prominent place in the way we worship. It will be in-person worship, coupled with electronic worshipping and messaging -- not an either/or.

So for now, let's practice "Outreach" in a new digital way until we can do it in the more traditional, in-person way. And then, let's do both!

Karen Anderson Peters

WORSHIP in June

June 7, THE HOLY TRINITY
Though the word trinity is not found in the scriptures, today's second reading includes the apostolic greeting that begins the liturgy: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. In the gospel Jesus sends his disciples forth to baptize in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. More than a doctrine, the Trinity expresses the heart of our faith: we have experienced the God of creation made known in Jesus Christ and with us always through the Holy Spirit.

June 14, 2ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Moses tells the Israelites that they are called to be a priestly kingdom and a holy people. Jesus sends out the disciples as laborers into the harvest. In baptism we too are anointed for ministry, sharing God's compassion with our needy world. We also go forth to proclaim the good news, to heal the sick, and to share our bread with the hungry.

June 21, 3RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
God does not promise that the path of the disciple will be easy. Jeremiah feels the pain of rejection from those who do not want to hear what he has to say. Jesus declares that his words may bring stark division. Even so, we need not be afraid for God accounts for each hair on our heads. Though we may experience rejection, frustration, division, and death, God's grace and love make us a new creation each day. Marked with the cross, we are sent from worship to witness to Christ in the world.

June 28, 4TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
The welcome of baptism is for all God's children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome.

June Celebrations

Birthdays

1 Cheri Houts
Cooper Jacobs
Matt Kawajiri
3 Jeanne Burt
4 Anna Seeger
6 Haakon Lacy
7 Robert Zlatunich
3 Sarah Chan
14 Gunnar Morgan
16 Chloe Jacobs
21 Barbara Bischoff
Rick West
22 Susan West
26 Seth Kamphoefner
28 Meggie Rosendahl

Anniversaries

12 Jean & Jon Rolien
18 Mette & Bob Wong
26 Lindsey & Travis Theobald

GRADUATES!

These youth and young adults were thrown a curve this year when schools closed down due to Coronavirus. They deserve a double toss of the cap for their accomplishments!

~ High School ~

Mia Lacy plans to follow a long family tradition of attending St. Olaf College. Prior to heading to Minnesota this fall, she will be spending the summer working at a music summer camp and creating her own summer camp for some neighborhood children. She finished off her senior year at Drake High School as Varsity Field Hockey Captain and Varsity Lacrosse Captain and was honored with being named Drake's "Outstanding Student Athlete" for 2020.

John Halloran finished out his senior semester at Tamalpais High School online. He will participate in Tam's "drive-thru" graduation and online ceremony the first week in June. He will be attending Occidental College in Los Angeles this fall.

Conner Grams will be graduating from Redwood High School on June 12th. Redwood is planning a drive-in graduation ceremony at the Marin Civic Center Lagoon for the seniors and their immediate families on June 12th, and the town of Larkspur/Magnolia Avenue will be decorated in honor of the graduates on Thursday, June 11th. Conner is planning to start college at the University of Oregon this fall and is hoping for an on-campus freshmen experience to be able to launch into his independence, pandemic permitting. In the meantime he is doing his best to stay in touch with friends and is busy with yard-work/landscaping jobs, hoping that his job as a census-taker will eventually start over the summer.

Ellery Stocker also graduates from Redwood High School on June 12th. She will be attending Ringling College of Art and Design in Sarasota, FL where she will be studying Computer Animation.

Annika Abbott is graduating on June 9th form Tamiscal High School. Annika spent two years at Redwood, then participated in the TEAM program her junior year and Pathways her senior year at Tamiscal. Tamiscal's independent study approach to education made the move to distant learning rather easy. They will be having a drive thru graduation on June 9th where each family will come through in one car and have five minutes to have pictures taken with their student as they get their diploma. A celebratory luncheon is planned on August 4th if conditions permit. Annika plans to attend University of Washington in Seattle this fall and will be studying Aquatic and Fishery Science.

~ College ~

Adelaide Shunk attended Amherst College in Massachusetts and got a BA in History. She will graduate in a virtual ceremony on Zoom on May 31st.

Laine Gruver graduates in June from UCLA with a BS in Neuroscience, and a strong interest in musicology. She will walk across her backyard deck to receive her diploma in front of a socially-distanced family. She finished her final quarter from home, and also taught an online class for undergrads on "Music and the Brain". She plans to apply to grad schools this fall.

Condolences

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to **Amy Dorie & Andrei Gorchov** following the death of Amy's father, Ron Slegg, on April 29th. Amy's parents live in Canada and the ban on international travel prevented Amy and Andrei from being able to go to Canada. They are anxious to gather with family as soon as their schedules and travel restrictions allow. We pray for God's continued comfort for their family.

Marin Lutheran Church Women

In June we usually begin a three-month independent Bible study. This year however, Pastor Tom is going to lead our June study on Zoom.

Join us, Thursday, June 4th at 10:00am.
https://zoom.us/j/4159243782

The upcoming study is titled: ***Just love***
Session one: *In the family: What's love got to do with it?*

This three-session Bible study invites readers to consider how justice and love intersect. What does "just love" look like? How is it more than a sentimental or sanitized emotion? How is it love-ln-action that dismantles the various systems of sin that damage God's creation and harm God's people?

Study all thee summer sessions and hopefully we can hold a mini retreat and picnic on our beautiful patio. Time and date will be set when all are safe and well.

Quilts are being made and we look forward to a time when we can get together to tie them.

Wishing you joy, hope and peace.
Jane McKenzie

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, June 14th, 10:30am
Join the meeting on **Zoom**
(An email will be sent with mtg. ID.)

Agenda:
- Select a Nominating Comm.
- Approval of constitutional changes
- Financial update

Adult Education on Sunday Mornings

On the first Sunday of June (7th) we will finish our Sunday morning study in the "Dialogue On" series. (Last fall we used another study in the series—"…On Refugees.") This series is "Dialogues on Race." The topic of the last class is "A New Heaven and A New Earth. Join us—even if you've missed the previous classes—at 11 am on the 7th on Zoom (Meeting ID: 4159243782).

Confirmation Ministry

This Winter-Spring we have four students in our class—two third-year youth—Rose Dalager and Giorgia Stankus. Originally Confirmation Sunday was scheduled for Sunday, May 17th. Giorgia and Rose are now waiting until we can worship again in person to affirm their faith. The other students include one second-year confirmand—Ryder Field, and one first-year student—Robert Bayler. Please keep all these youth in your prayers as they learn and grow in their faith.

High School Youth Activities

SAVE THE DATES for the: ELCA YOUTH GATHERING--June 29-July 3, 2021

Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives.

June 2020 Schedule of Joint Marin Lutheran & Shepherd of the Hills Ministries

As we have been doing for over two years, the people of Marin Lutheran and Shepherd of the Hills are strengthening our ministry ties by regularly worshipping together, participating in joint educational activities and by hosting special fellowship events. Everyone is welcomed and encouraged to participate!

During this time Marin Lutheran and Shepherd of the Hills will continue to worship through live online worship services (using the Zoom platform—Meeting ID: 4159243782 Call Pastor Tom if you have questions), and worship videos. You can find those on the Marin Lutheran YouTube channel and Marin Lutheran Facebook.

Pastor Tom

STEWARDSHIP

Sometimes articles come easy and sometimes they don't. Version 1 did not come easy, but version two was helped along by the message on the Zoom service on the 24th! (Yes, busted – the due date is the 20th)

Zach said that a lesson learned from the last two months is that human life is valued over the ability to produce. And as I looked at all the faces and names, the thought occurred to me that the greatest gift you all give to MLC is yourselves. The simple presence and connection of everyone that makes time in their lives to share the message of faith, kindness, and devotion are what make us a community whether together in a place or together via flowing electrons. Zach also said there is true power in people and that the need to stay connected is paramount. On an NPR story this morning about the proposed opening of churches by some parishes, the minister being interviewed was asked for words of encouragement. The gist of his comment was that place is important, but connection between people in a common purpose and belief is what matters.

I think we have pretty much settled on "Give Creatively" for our theme which still seems to fit given the myriad of ways people have dreamed up for helping those in need and for sustaining businesses and, of course, churches during this year. I think a great example of that is the heads-up and help Joel Stahl gave MLC for the Paycheck Protection Program. I'm pretty sure that will result in more funds for MLC than Joel could write a check for (just a wild assumption), but it was the act of thinking of MLC and wanting to help that started it. Similar examples of creative stewardship are finding the Yoga business to fill in an income gap and exploring selling the lot out back. Both of those would also result in more benefit to MLC than any one person can write a check for. Are there other ideas out there? There is also the creativity and effort that went (and I'm sure will continue to go) into the Taizé services which hold the potential of exposing more people to the spiritual potential of joining a church community. I'm also betting Jim and the finance committee are engaging in some creative financing! I've mentioned before the incredible creativity of our staff and members in starting and continually improving our Zoom services. Putting together the liturgy and the music has been a true act of stewardship. The music Robert Allen arranged for Good Friday was absolutely stunning and a great example of creativity. Thanks, Robert! Everyone, of course has their talents which include various levels of creativity but let's not overlook those who's talent is to stick with it and continue to look after all the details that make MLC work like Bev, Pastor Tom, Lorraine and the gardeners, the Council, the ministry teams and many others. (I'm not saying they aren't creative, by the way.)

It's unclear to me just what the Stewardship campaign for 2020 will look like, but it will happen! Susan Morrow and I would love the help of your creativity if you are so inclined. I'm in the book.

John Bischoff

Social Action

The Social Action Ministry Team thought it might be useful to provide a review of what social services are going on in our community during the pandemic. Here is an update on the various nonprofit agencies that MLC has supported in the past with a preview of current activities/services. Our team continues to meet monthly via Zoom and hopes to keep the congregation informed and aware of current social service activities and issues (local, regional, and international).

Sandy Seeger

Whistlestop: 930 Tamalpais Ave., San Rafael, 415-456-9062
Serving seniors with disabilities, transportation needs, food insecurities, legal advice and guidance, housing, education and jobs.

- Continued support for visual impaired (advocacy, independent living support, services)
- Cal Fresh Assistance-coordinates application/eligibility status for federal food purchase benefits
- Housing-seminars/assistance with locating and securing local housing for seniors
- Provides trained counselors for advice/guidance in following areas (health services, legal
- services, social services, nutrition, housing, transportation, adult classes, jobs)
- Meals on Wheels-sign up for meal deliveries 3x/wk
- Care Pool-volunteer program providing rides to medical appts, grocery and drug store, etc.

Current needs:

- ➔ volunteers for meal delivery, transportation
- ➔ handmade masks for volunteers, seniors

SF/Marin Food Bank: www.sfmfoodbank.org, 415-282-1900
Serves homeless and food insecure residents of SF and Marin at food banks, senior centers, food pantries, schools and community centers
Volunteers are currently involved in

- warehouse receiving and stocking
- gift box assembly
- gift box/bag distribution
- staffing of established and pop up food pantries

Volunteers most needed and welcome. Visit the website: www.sfmfoodbank.org / Get Involved / Volunteer. Or call 415-282-1900.

St. Vincent's: 820 B St., San Rafael, 415-454-3303
Charitable nonprofit serving more than 10,000 children, adults, seniors and vets with food and housing insecurities.

- During the pandemic there is a new system of delivery for daily breakfasts/lunches in compliance with social distancing requirements
- Brown bag lunches are assembled ahead of time and distributed at 820 B St. SR 415-454-3303

Current needs: (StVdeP)

- ➔ Any group or individual who can commit to making a minimum of 50 bag lunches should contact Vicki at 415-454-3303 X16
  - ➢ Lunch bags to contain, sandwich in plastic bag, fruit, granola bar or packaged cookie, bag of chips
- ➔ Program also needs homemade masks for clients, volunteers. Contact Vicki (see above) to join mask making project

Canal Alliance: 91 Larkspur, SR 415-454-2640
Nonprofit champion of immigrants, challenged by lack of resources and an unfamiliar environment

- ❖ Currently, volunteer opportunities are on hold due to virus precautions
- ❖ However, staff are continuing with their counseling, food distribution, legal and housing guidance, advocacy, education classes including ESL, job search

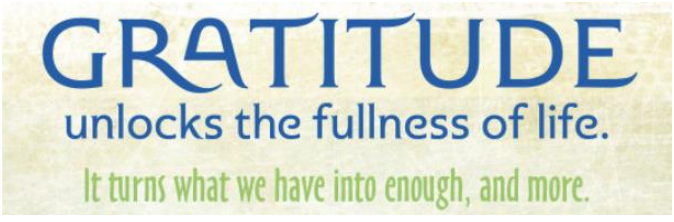
Homeward Bound of Marin: 1385 N. Hamilton Pkwy, Novato, 415-382-3363
Primary count shelter and services provider for homeless families/individuals in Marin County. Services provided include shelter, housing search/assistance, counseling, food pantries, job training.

Has recently achieved final San Rafael City approval for replacing existing Mill Street shelter to include

- ✓ upgraded shelter for 60 adults
- ✓ 2 upper floors for 32 small apt. units of supportive housing
- ✓ ground floor parking

Opportunities for volunteer service – Call Andrea to arrange, 415-382-3363 ext. 212

- ➔ Homemade meals: protein with cooked veggies and salad. There are no set dates. Andrea works with the donor and the program staff to arrange the best day for all parties.
  - ➢ **Family Center:** we need meals for 8 adults and 5 kids. Best way to deliver is in several Aluminum containers. No pork or fish. Salads only in sealed bags.
  - ➢ **Family Place:** 8 scattered families sites in Terra Linda/San Rafael. Meals can be delivered to each household in aluminum containers.
  - ➢ **Housing at last**: 20 adults sharing housing in scattered homes in Novato and Terra Linda. Same as above.
  - ➢ **Warner Creek:** 60 seniors in Novato. Best way to deliver is individually wrapped meals. (sandwiches, meat and veggies.)
- ➔ Adult Diapers, size medium. Deliver to office in Novato. If Andrea is not there, tell them that the diapers are for Warner Creek



Council Highlights:

- Unanimously approved proposed changes to our Constitution. These have been emailed to member's homes.
- Congregational semi-annual meeting on June 14 following the service. Will be held via Zoom at 10:30am and voting instructions will be sent out prior to the meeting. We will be voting on revisions to the MLC Constitution.
- Worship in the Park (scheduled for June 7) and Vacation Bible School (the first week in August) are both cancelled for this year.

Denise Halloran

Property

While we've been away from church because of Coronavirus, some water wreaked havoc with the newly installed floor in one of the small rooms leased by IHI. The month of May was spent evaluating the floor, drying the floor then assessing what we do going forward. The floor dried out nicely, with the majority of the boards already returning to their natural position allowing the floor to lie flat again.

Because we had a small window of opportunity we took advantage of it to completely finish off odds'n'ends that may have otherwise been left unfinished. My thanks to Paul Davis & Michael Houts for consulting on the floor and coming up with the plan of how we forge ahead to prevent further water intrusion. (Some trenching will be involved.) Thanks also to Ron Jacobs for putting finishing touches on electrical work.

Ev plans to re-open IHI on June 1st, most likely beginning with Zoom classes only – initially no clients on the premises. For the time being, we ask that we leave the lower level of the church solely for the use of IHI. It is shared space, and we will get back to using it as such, but while we are still distancing and making sure the areas we use are kept clean, we ask that the lower level be off-limits. (If you need to go into the kitchen to get something, of course you may do so.)

Some gardeners have also come by to shape things up a bit – Lorraine Loo and Carol & Hal Sherley. Paul Davis has spent time looking at the irrigation to figure out why some plantings are not doing so well. Barbara Bischoff has assessed those as well. So there is limited but necessary activity at the church. I thank all these individuals for their time and expertise. If others that I don't know about have come and taken care of a property issue, I thank you as well.

We'll definitely have a little catching up to do (especially outdoors) when things resume, but until then the church is standing tall waiting for the time it is safe for us to return.

Bev Kamphoefner

Community Partner Updates:
MOC and MIC are two of our community partners. *Everyone is invited and encouraged to come to the following events*:

Marin Organizing Committee (MOC):

MOC is a broad-based, non-partisan and non-profit organization of *churches, synagogues and non-profits located throughout Marin County. MOC's core mission is the building of a power organization through the identification, development and mentorship of leaders from member institutions.*

Upcoming Meetings: The work of MOC continues through online meetings. If you are interested in participating, or if you have any questions, please ask me, Pastor Tom (pastortomgable@gmail.com or text at 916-479-3308).

Marin Interfaith Council (MIC) Update:

Join us on June 10th from 5:30 to 6:30 for the MIC Monthly Meditation *Online with* Dr. Leili First. She is with the *International Association of Sufism.*

Leili First, Ph.D. is a student of Uwaisyi Sufism, and a long-time member of the International Association of Sufism and the Sufi Women Organization. She has given lectures on Sufism at colleges and universities and presented at the Annual Sufism Symposium and Parliament of the World's Religions. Leili has been on the MIC Board from around 2003-2008 & been back on the board since 2014.

To join the online meditation with video, click on this link: https://zoom.us/j/99010830027

Mobile Phone: tap on the following: +16699006833,,99010830027# US

From a Landline: dial: +1 669 900 6833 US / Once prompted, enter the Meeting ID, which is 990 1083 0027, followed by #.

If you have not used Zoom before, you may need to download an app to do so, and you can use either your phone or your computer. Go to Zoom.us to download the app if needed.

Cost: Love Offering - feel free to make a donation to MIC online at marinifc.org or you may mail in a check to the office if you are so moved.

Every second Wednesday of the month, a leader from a different spiritual community will offer a meditation or spiritual practice and explain how it flows from the basic tenets of his/her faith tradition. Each gathering will include time for questions and insights that emerge from our shared time of intentional spiritual practice.