Walking Together Through Covid-19

Wow!!! It has been a couple of crazy weeks and yet through all the chaos I am so grateful for the calming hand of Jesus upon our church. Our team has been overwhelmed by your support as we do our very best to continue to live out our vision of Multiplying Disciples and Transforming Lives.

As we continue to wade through a tremendous amount of uncertainty, we must lean into the certainty that we have in Jesus, who is the same yesterday, today and forever; He is our foundation! We have developed the following Guiding Principles (based on our church values) that will help us to continue moving forward in ministry at WLC:

1. We will follow our government and community officials’ direction in order to best safeguard the vulnerable. (Romans 13: We value Truth, Each Person, Our Community)
2. We will provide ongoing continuity of service for our core ministries. (Hebrews 10:25: we value Movement)
3. We will stay in personal contact with our people. (Philippians 1:3-6: We value Relationships, Each Person).
4. We will look for and find ways to help. (James 1:27: We value Our Community, Compassionate Care)
5. We will steward our resources wisely. (1 Peter 4:10)

These guiding principles are already coming to life across the spectrum of our ministries. Here are a few important updates as we continue to walk through this together:

- We will continue to gather remotely for our worship services until further notice. We have been working hard to provide the best online experience possible. Click here for our online worship platform.
- All of our ministry areas are working hard at continuing to deliver ministry in new and exciting ways.
- Expect phone calls from staff and other ministry leaders as we continue to seek out needs. If you have any needs, or know of someone who does, please email Pastor Tim at: pastortim@woodburlutheran.org

The biggest thing that we can be doing is caring for one another; pretty amazing how something like this has the ability to help us focus on what matters most in this life and as followers of Jesus. I want to challenge you to be in prayer during this time, and to see this as a grand opportunity to live out your calling as an ambassador of Jesus to those around you, as that will help us move forward.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to reach out. We want to walk with you! This all reminds me of these great words from Psalm 20:7: “Some nations boast of their chariots and horses, but we boast in the name of the Lord our God.” We will be a people at WLC who boast about the greatness of our God, shown in His Son Jesus!

Peace,
Tom Pfotenhauer, Sr. Pastor
The Power of Generosity
In Challenging Times!

I almost broke my neck watching the Stock Market jump up and down over the past few weeks! Personally, I have been reminded of how beautiful these words of Jesus from Matthew 10 are, “What is the price of two sparrows—one copper coin? But not a single sparrow can fall to the ground without your Father knowing it. And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. So don’t be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows.” **Our hope is not in stuff. It is in Jesus!**

Jesus promises that He will provide for us as we seek after His Kingdom first. Times like this test us for sure. How sad it has been to see people hoarding goods in disproportionate ways instead of looking for ways to be helpful and generous to others. We as the church have a chance to shine in the darkness. One of our guiding principles during this time is that: **“We will steward our resources wisely. (1 Peter 4:10)”**

This of course is something we always strive for, but it has become especially important now. We have taken many steps to cut our costs in an effort to continue to provide ministry. Here are a few:

- Spoke to our lender to reduce our loan payments.
- Spoke to our benefits provider to reduce payments.
- Cut all non-essential spending across ministries.
- Spoke to many of our vendors about reduced charges.
- Exploring possible salary cuts to our staff.

We are blessed to be in an incredibly strong financial position thanks to your generosity over the years. **My goal is that ministry will not slow down in the days ahead, but rather ramp up. We will need your continued partnership to make that happen.**

As always, you can give by sending your offering to the church office at 7380 Afton Road, Woodbury MN 55125, or you can give online by clicking [here](#).

I want to encourage you to take a next step in your giving by moving your gift online as it will help us with having a more consistent cash flow for ministry. **If you have any questions about how to sign up please email Sunny Marshall in the church office at marshalls@woodburylutheran.org.**

Peace,
Tom Pfotenhauer, Sr. Pastor
Church Council Monthly Update

In order to continue to grow in our communication to the congregation, each month in the Newsletter we will share an update from the previous Council meeting. Full minutes for the Council can be found by clicking here...

Woodbury Lutheran Church - Council Meeting
Monday, March 9th, 2020
6:30am – 8:00am

Call to Order & Quorum Determination

Devotions/Prayer

Consent Agenda
- February Meeting Minutes
- February Financial Report

Information
- Senior Pastor report
- WLC Bylaws & Council Policies – Extend updates to April meeting
- WLC response to Coronavirus

Discussion
- Update on Endowments & distributions
- Liberty Ridge Permanent Home Project - Update and Next Steps
- Strategic Planning Meeting

Closing Prayer
Adjourn

Meeting Highlights:

- Worship attendance is up almost 10% over last year, but our giving is behind where we were last year at this time. We will continue to track this and see if we need to change spending habits for the year.
- We continue to talk through the evolving situation with Coronavirus and are working hard to make sure that we are ready for possible service cancellations and so forth. We will continue to monitor the CDC for information.
- The Liberty Ridge Action Team is pricing out a much cheaper option for the Afton property than a traditional build through a structure called Sprung. Members of the team will be meeting with the city of Afton next week to discuss further details. At the same time, staff is working on finding indicators that will help us better understand the proper next steps and timing for Liberty Ridge.
- There are approximately 225 congregations in the Minnesota South District of the LCMS. Of those congregations, nearly half have 70 or fewer in worship making supporting a pastor nearly impossible. This means that there will continue to be plenty of opportunities for mergers and partnerships. Although there is nothing imminent at this time, if further steps are coming the congregation will be a part of those discussions.
- The Endowment Team is back up and meeting as we work toward a new strategy around legacy and long term giving for WLC.

Service Times at WLC:

Saturdays at Valley Creek:
Contemporary, 5pm

Sundays at Valley Creek:
Sanctuary, Blended 8 & 11am
Sanctuary, Contemporary 9:30am

Sundays at Oak Hill:
Blended 9:00am
Contemporary 10:30am

Sundays at Liberty Ridge
Contemporary 10:00am

Office & Mailing Address:
7380 Afton Road
Woodbury, MN 55125

Office Hours:
Mon. – Thurs.: 9am-4pm
Friday: 9am–3pm

Phone: (651) 739-5144
Fax: (651) 739-3536
Website: www.woodburylutheran.org
I am so grateful that our God is faithful, persistent, creative, grace-filled, and in control. These past days have felt full of change, inconsistency, uncertainty, frustration, and definitely an awareness that we are not in control of much. With all these modifications to our typical rhythms our families, young people, and small group leaders have been creatively adapting and faithfully pursuing community in the midst of this physical distancing season. There is so much hope to be found in this season of our church:

- Groups have been gathering in Zoom hangouts, sharing highs and lows, reading God’s Word, and sharing prayer requests.
- Small group leaders are texting, facetiming, emailing, and Zooming with their young people reminding them that God is for them and that they’re not alone.
- Families are cooking together and eating dinner night after night.
- Parents are opening their Bibles and reading with their families before bed.
- Sidewalks are being filled with chalked Scripture passages, blood is being donated, and groceries are being shared.
- We’re sharing our devotion times and prayers over social media, inviting the world to join us as we focus our eyes on Jesus.

We’ve experienced the joys of learning new things and the invitation to lean in and trust God even more in this whirlwind. While we don’t know exactly when this season will end we are grateful for God’s faithfulness and provision. I am grateful for God’s gift of our church and that whether we are scattered or able to gather...we are still better together.

Young people and families with young people: be sure to check out wlcyouth.org for upcoming opportunities to hangout, be in the Word, and pray together. ~ Lindsey Schmidt
Campus Update from Online

This is typically the spot where you would find updates from each of our physical campuses. With this unprecedented set of circumstances in which we find ourselves, things have been pretty quiet in our buildings. But ministry is ongoing! If you flip back to Pastor Tom's opening note you'll see that among our five guiding principles is a commitment to provide ongoing continuity of service for our core ministries, and to stay in personal contact with our people. Today's technology is allowing us to do both of those things in some pretty great ways.

- Online weekend worship is available at live.woodburylutheran.org.
  - Weekend services are streamed Saturdays at 5:00pm, Sundays at 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00am, 3:00, 5:00 and 7:00pm and Mondays and Tuesdays at 7:00pm.
  - Holy Week and Easter services will be streamed as follows:
    - Maundy Thursday, Noon and 7:00pm on Thursday, April 9
    - Good Friday, Noon and 7:00pm on Friday, April 10
    - Easter Saturday, 5:00pm on Saturday, April 11
    - Easter Sunday, 6:30, 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00am, 3:00, 5:00 and 7:00pm, and Monday and Tuesday at 7:00pm
  - The response to online services has been wonderful. Lots of you are tuning in as are people from all over the country. We're so thankful for the tech team, worship teams, and pastors who are working hard to keep providing worship each week. Keep watching!
  - NextGen Ministries--Kids and Youth--have been making use of online gatherings as a means of staying connected with students and small group leaders.
  - Women of the Word and adult Small Groups are gathering online as well, continuing their studies and community.
  - The staff is gathering online each morning at 9:30 for a brief time of prayer for each other, for our congregation, and for our community.

It's not the same as being together face-to-face, but the ability to gather in worship and for groups to see each other and continue growing together has been a blessing. If you're having trouble accessing weekend worship online please call the church office...we're ready to help!
Easter Week

All Campus Virtual Prayer Vigil

God is inviting us into this time of prayer because of His great love for us so we would truly know who our God is and be able to put our full trust and faith in Him.

This can help us stand firm in Jesus because we are so loved.

Sign-up and pray - to let this be a time to seek God. This time of prayer is an invitation from a God whose love is so strong and who wants to release us to receive everything He has for us. His desire is that we talk with Him, hear His heart and lift up people and those things that we’re concerned or stressed about.

“If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” - 2 Chronicles 7:14

“In every place of worship, I want men to pray with holy hands lifted up to God, free from anger and controversy.” - 1 Timothy 2:8

Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick. The Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man has great power to prevail... - James 5:14-16

What is a Prayer Vigil?
• An extended time of prayer, often giving people the opportunity to sign up for a period of time individually or with others. It is common for this to go around the clock, which includes all night or multiple nights.
• A vigil, from the Latin vigilia meaning wakefulness, is a period of purposeful sleeplessness, an occasion for devotional watching, or an observance.

Why a Prayer Vigil
• God calls us as a church to earnestly and fervently seek His face and cry out to Him in prayer & praise.
• Prayer and praise proceed breakthroughs in the Spirit.
• This is a very exciting time to lean into what God is doing and being a part of His Kingdom power seeing disciples made and lives transformed.
• Easter week is the perfect time to take extended time to pray and contemplate the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Details
• Starting time: 12:00pm on Palm Sunday, April 5 •
• Ending time: 6:00am on Easter Sunday, April 12
• 162 1-hour time slots are available
• Up to 5 people can sign-up per 1-hour time slot. That does not include your family or friends you ask to join you.
• Pray individually or with family or friends.
• The entire Pray Vigil will happen in your home, not at one of our campuses
• Ideas, tools, and resources for how to pray during this hour will be provided via email for participants closer to the time of the Prayer Vigil.
• Click here to sign-up. If you know someone who does not have a computer, please have them call Cheri Frost at 651-235-8695. She will help you choose a time slot and make sure you get the ideas, tools and resources.
Let’s Be
Fervent In Prayer

“As for God, His way is perfect; the Word of the Lord is flawless. He is a shield for you who take refuge in Him.” ~ 2 Samuel 22:31

The month of March has been something none of us has experienced in our lifetime, and something that I believe God prepares us for as we learn from Him. When the season of Lent began at the Oak Hill Campus, we gathered around meals prepared and served by generous volunteers. Proceeds of our offering around these meals went to the Valley Outreach Food Shelf. We would then move into a beautiful time of worship followed by focused prayer. We also celebrated the confirmation of Sammi Odegaard and Jack Schultz on the first Sunday of March and the sending off of the Jamaica Team on March 8. The Lord provided a time of centering and showing His gracious hand in all of this.

Much changed in the coming weeks, but the worship of our Savior, the preaching of His Word and the gathering of the saints (in a new but no less Spirit filled way) has continued. The WLC family is knit together by a cord not easily broken and has the opportunity to reach so many more who may not have a worship resource. Please share our livestream worship web address with all those in your life in need of encouragement and the power of God’s love (live.woodburylutheran.org).

I have been praying that we would see an incredible movement of the Kingdom of God in the midst of this difficult time. So, my friends, I want to rally you for our upcoming Prayer Vigil that will begin this coming Sunday, Palm Sunday at noon and will continue 24 hours a day until 6 am Easter Sunday morning. Let’s be fervent in prayer and seek the Lord’s face and anticipate what awesome things will be done by our Risen Savior Jesus.

Peace,
Dean Dunavan
Lean Into a Relationship During a Time of Social Distancing

In this time of stay at home orders, self-quarantine, and social distancing, it is increasingly important to find ways to connect with others and build community. We are wired for relationships and especially need each other in times of stress. You may need to be physically distanced right now, but you don’t need to be relationally distanced!

So what can you do? Gather some people together on-line and start a short-term small group! Choose one of the options below and let WLC help you get started.

1. Gather some people you already know! Consider people you know from church, work, school, the gym, clubs, etc. Who do you know who likes you and welcomes you? Many of these people can’t get together the way they normally do and might be looking for a way to connect with others outside the four walls of their home! Determine a day of the week, time, duration, and meeting platform (Zoom, Google Hangouts, Facebook, etc.) Send out an email and see who might join you! E-mail Diana Vander Pas, Multi-site Director of Small Group Ministry and she will get you started with tips and ideas to discuss as well as walk alongside you on the journey.

2. Gather with some people you don’t yet know! Don’t know who you would gather with, but love the idea of meeting some new people at Woodbury Lutheran who are like you? E-mail Diana Vander Pas and she will connect you into a short-term group!

Let’s walk alongside each other during this time and encourage one another in the Lord.
InCredible! Small Group Study Launches Easter Weekend

Launch a church-wide, small group study during stay-at-home orders? You bet!

What better time for people to be in community, hear the Good News, and pray for one another?! This small group discussion guide matches the WLC upcoming sermon series and will help you put it into practice! This is a great option to discuss with your existing small group, family, or even a new group of friends from inside or outside WLC.

Whether you are feeling overwhelmed right now or desperately seeking some connection as you are staying at home, using this guide and talking with others to get an eternal perspective in the midst of our present struggles will help!

We are encouraging groups to meet on-line using video chat tools such as Zoom, Skype, or Facebook. Many tools have a free option available. Helpful tips to set up the online chat will be provided for those who would like them.

Consider meeting weekly for the next four weeks. It might be helpful to have a little extra connection during this time! If you can’t meet weekly, the study will simply take two months to complete rather than one. It will not line up each week in worship, but that will still work!

The resurrection of Jesus is central to the Christian faith. 1 Corinthians 15:14 puts it this way: “And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.”

How does the resurrection of Christ impact your faith? Where do you need some Good News today? Who can you gather together with on-line? Use this discussion guide to continue your celebration of Easter and the resurrection. Gather your small group of friends and get started!

Click here for the study and join us on this 4-session journey through the InCredible accounts of the resurrection!

For more information about the small group discussion guide, for help in connecting in a group, or starting a new group, contact Diana Vander Pas at vanderpasd@woodburylutheran.org.
Mission Experiences 2020
Robin’s Nest, Jamaica

On Tuesday, March 10th, a team of 16 of us joined together and headed to the Robin’s Nest in Jamaica. Prior to this, we gathered as a team to pray and prepare but little did we know, God was preparing us to serve under much different circumstances than we anticipated.

When we arrived, we were blessed to connect with the children, staff, and directors at the Nest. For the first couple of days, the ladies were with the children in the mornings and afternoons and worked on a variety of projects throughout the school day. We enjoyed many activities with them from the playground, to cooling off in the pool, to singing with them during devotions and more. Every moment of that time was so precious! While all of that occurred, the men were off at their building project worksite. Their days consisted of transporting heavy rock loads to fill in large holes in preparation to pour the foundation.

On Thursday afternoon, we were met with the difficult news that we could no longer have any physical contact with the children due to the ongoing spread of the Coronavirus. This came as a huge blow to our team as we had just begun to establish a routine. In the midst of this obstacle, we rallied together knowing that we would be the last team at the Nest for quite some time, and we began to do all that we could to carry that load. The men kept working on the homebuilding project while the ladies completed many painting and cleaning projects, along with lots of sanitizing.

As all this was happening, the pandemic continued to spread rapidly in the U.S. and it became clear that we needed to get home before possible travel restrictions were placed. We were extremely blessed to get on a direct flight back to Minneapolis Sunday afternoon.

Each day, we spent time worshipping and reflecting as a team during devotions. It was a great time to slow down and remember that God has a plan in all of this, even if we can’t see it clearly. We know that God was at work in every step and we saw that through safety in our travels, the provision of good health for our team and those at Robin’s Nest, the availability of flights to get us home quickly, and being able to continue serving despite the restrictions.

Romans 15:13 “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”
Woodbury Lutheran will host another Mobile Pack with Feed My Starving Children. BUT ... the dates may change due to the COVID-19 situation. For now plan on May 15 - 16 (Friday and Saturday), but please keep an eye out for a possible change. (FMSC has postponed all packing events through April 12, but acknowledges the need for their meals globally is desperately high. Therefore we’re remaining flexible for the sake of hungry children worldwide.) Our goal is to pack 200,000 nutritious MannaPack meals that will be shipped to an area of need in the world.

If you are in a small group at church, have a bunch of friends at work, or maybe a neighborhood bunko club, this is a great opportunity to serve together, build your community, and share the love of Jesus! Watch for more details and sign-up opportunities in the month ahead. Contact Mike Sabbann if you have questions (sabbanm@woodburielutheran.org).
Living A Jesus Shaped Life 
During Covid-19

Jesus MULTIPLIED DISCIPLES AND TRANSFORMED LIVES and he invites us to join him, even in this crazy season! Maybe more than ever (in this season)!!

A Jesus shaped life looks like this:
   Integrating UP, IN and OUT
   
   **UP** – Jesus stayed connected to His Father. It was intentional, His lifeblood.

   **IN** – Jesus stayed connected to those He was doing life with, on mission with. It was intentional, inviting people to be with Him, to deeper relationships.

   **OUT** – Jesus stayed connected to the broken world around Him. It was intentional, noticing and engaging people with mercy & compassion.

   [See Luke chapter 6 for a picture of this]

So how do we live this life this week, right here and now? Here are 5 practical ideas for each area, UP, IN and OUT. Try them on, get creative, invite others.

**5 “UP” Ideas During COVID-19**

1. Pray together over a meal (including family/friends you live with or with others over the phone, FaceTime or using other on-line tools). Identify 2 or 3 people to pray for, pray, and after the meal give them a call. (this is a combo of UP & OUT). You could tell them you just prayed for them or ask for requests.
2. Worship together with family or friends, engaging with WLC online worship. You could also pull up worship songs, sets, or services, etc. on Youtube.
3. Make a plan and create space to spend additional time reading scripture and praying. Try out a new tool or resource like YouVersion Bible app or pull out an old devotional that you haven’t seen in awhile. See the WLC prayer booklet.
4. Take a nature walk outside and look at how spring is coming to our earth, and use this time to pray, thanking God for his creation and practicing gratitude.
5. Read a book (some might actually have time for this now) that is intentionally focused on inspiring your faith. Try a biography or an autobiography of a follower of Jesus who has gone before us.

**5 “IN” Ideas During COVID-19**

1. Have fun! The joy of the LORD is your strength. (Nehemiah 8:10) Text a fun video to each other. Play a minute to win it game (either with those in your home or video yourself and have your friends send their videos back!) or pull out games that you haven’t seen in awhile.
2. Set up a day and time for friends, family and fellow believers who could use some extra connection at this time to get together each week. Utilize the on-line tools: Zoom, GoTo Meetings, Google Hangouts, Facebook, or group texting apps. Not a tech person? Set up a phone call tree (call two people who call two people, etc.) or assign prayer partners to check in. Have each person share one high point and one low point since you last spoke and how you can pray for them personally. Consider using the 5 questions from Dwelling 1:14 as a discussion guide: 1) How did you see God at work in your life this week? 2) What has God been teaching you in His Word? 3) What kinds of conversations are you having with pre-Christians? 4) What good can we do around here? 5) How can we help you in prayer?
3. Cook a new meal together on-line or re-create old holiday favorites (Thanksgiving meal, bobbing for apples in costume, hot cider and Christmas cookies & Carols, make homemade ice cream, try a new recipe, etc.).
4. Send or post a verse of the day for those you love, or download the YouVersion Bible app and invite others to do a devotion plan together.
5. Create a care package and/or a handwritten encouragement note TOGETHER and leave it on someone’s door step or send in the mail. You might just attach it to some treat, purchased or homemade. OR you could expand in more of a care package, including things like: toilet paper, protein bars, favorite snacks, coffee, chocolate, hand soap, etc. Have fun and be creative about what your “Beat the virus” care package could include.

5 “OUT” Ideas During COVID-19
1. Walk around your neighborhood praying for each home. Pray for things like safety and protection, healing, peace, for Jesus to touch each person with his love, etc. You can do this by yourself or with those you live with (or a friend that you’re being safe and keeping social distance with).
2. See Number 5 above (could be IN and/or OUT)
3. Contact people you know and let them know you care, you’re praying for them and offer help if needed. Seize the opportunity to reach out to family members of friends that you’ve lost contact with or have a strained relationship with or with neighbors that you do not know.
4. Leave inspiring chalk messages on your driveway (or others) or along the walking path near your home for others to see and be encouraged by.
5. Brainstorm creative ways to express your gratitude and concern for people who are on the front lines of the COVID 19 battle, specifically health care workers and first responders (like creating & sending cards/signs/???)

Ask God to lead you, get creative and then do something!

You’re on a mission with Jesus!!!
~Nancy Schubbe & Diana Vander Pas
Anxiety
Faith Over Fear

Many people are home and anxious these days. There is much anxiety and fear of the unknown. Rather than let the news of your own thoughts spin your mind out of control, take every thought captive and make it obedient to Christ (2 Cor 10:5). Let us hear from God and see how Jesus helps us face uncertainty and anxiety in this time of COVID-19. There are many devotionals and tools available to help you. YouVersion Bible app offers many, as well as many other apps. Here is one 7-day plan that includes Scripture readings, a short devotional, and two application questions each session that are great for discussion with your family or small group.

Devotion plan provided to YouVersion by Steve Douglass from the Making Your Life Count team and the ministry of Cru.

DIRECTIONS: download the YouVersion Bible app, click on plans on the bottom tab, select anxiety topic for plans, select COVID-19/Faith over Fear, Start Plan, Invite Friends to join you!
InCredible!
DATE RANGE :: 04.12.2020-05.3.2020

Series Synopsis
InCredible. Is that a description of Easter? Can we possibly believe that the accounts of the resurrection of Jesus are credible? Against all odds. Against all models. Against what’s seemingly possible. The answer is yes. And it means that you can experience a truly #InCredibleEaster.

Week #1  | 04.12.2020 | InCredible Mystery
● Readings
  ○ Primary Reading :: John 20:1-18; Key Verse :: John 20:8
  ○ Secondary Reading :: Acts 2:25-36
Sermon Concept
In spite of some of the Christians you’ve met or interacted with, in spite of revivals and scandals, in spite of your view of the Bible or your view of church, you should consider believing in Jesus as your Savior. Why? It has nothing to do with you. It has everything to do with an InCredible mystery.
WLC Values
We Value Truth: Rooted in God’s Word

Week #2  | 4.18-19.20 | InCredible Confession
● Readings
  ○ Primary Reading :: 1 Corinthians 15:1-8; Key Verse :: 1 Corinthians 15:3-4
  ○ Secondary Reading :: Romans 6:4-11
Sermon Concept
If an event happens, there’s a trail of evidence. The resurrection of Jesus is no different. While sometimes the argument is made that the Christian faith evolved throughout the first two centuries, an early writing with an InCredible assertion invites us to see the good news: Jesus really is alive!
WLC Values
We Value Truth: Rooted in God’s Word

Week #3  | 04.25-26.20 | InCredible Details
● Readings
  ○ Primary Reading :: Romans 8:1-2, 11-17a; Key Verse :: Romans 8:15
  ○ Secondary Reading :: Matthew 27:57-66
Sermon Concept
The events of the New Testament are filled with incredible detail about Jesus. If you read an account and the timeline and geography doesn’t match the story, you know it’s not true. Yet at every turn, the New Testament presents information that is amazingly accurate to what is known about the setting from other sources. If those details are true, it also means that the picture of what it means to follow Jesus is also true. The resurrection details invite us into an InCredible relationship.
WLC Values
We Value Each Person: Come as You Are

Week #4 | 05.02-03.20 | InCredible Responsibility
● Readings
  ○ Primary Reading :: Matthew 28:16-20; Key Verse :: Matthew 28:19-20
  ○ Secondary Reading :: Luke 24:44-52
Sermon Concept
Where is Jesus leading? What’s the payoff? Is it being a better person? Is it eternal life after you die? The resurrection of Jesus invites us to see that it is way more than either of those things. No one is willing to die for a lie. We aren’t invited to either. Jesus is alive and that means we are invited into an InCredible responsibility.
WLC Values
We Value Movement: Faith Doesn’t Stand Still
Parenting During a Pandemic

For some, it’s simply an inconvenience chalked up to lots of hype with not-so-much science. For others, it has become more and more dire as we see our schools closing and major gatherings canceled.

Wherever you fall on the spectrum, the kids in your home are probably experiencing a wide range of emotions at any given moment each day. And there’s no need to speculate as to how the world around us is handling it: the angst is easily measured by looking at the empty store shelves where the toilet paper used to reside.

As you find yourself with LOTS of extra family time, what’s the game plan for speaking truth into this situation?

How are you going to shape the narrative of this pandemic to line up with your faith?

What’s your response to the world around you that is panicked by the pandemic?

I certainly don’t have all the answers, and, quite frankly, I’ve been to Costco more times this week than I care to discuss. But it’s probably time to consider a better game plan than inadvertently allowing the national news media and our erratic social media feeds to influence our perspective.

Let’s consider three ways to rescript our family’s narrative in the wake of the fear and uncertainty we’re facing these days.

Choose faith
This is the closest thing to 9/11 our kids have experienced.

Be honest with your kids by admitting that these days are unsettling. Talk about your family’s choice to live in faith over fear, pointing them to God’s word as the authority in all situations.

I’ve found Psalm 91 to be a great word on how to respond when we’re facing the hard places:

Those who live in the shelter of the Most HIGH
Will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty,
This I declare about the Lord:
He Alone is my God, and I trust him.

For he will rescue you from every trap
And protect you from deadly disease.
He will cover you with his feathers.
He will shelter you with his wings.
His faithful promises are your armor and protection.

Do not be afraid of the terrors of the night,
nor the arrow that flies in the day.
Do not dread the disease that stalks in darkness,
nor the disaster that strikes at midday. (Psalm 91:1–7)

The Lord says, I will rescue those who love me.
I will protect those who trust in my name.
When they call on me, I will answer’
I will be with them in trouble.
I will rescue and honor them.
I will reward them with a long life
And give them my salvation. (Psalm 91:14–16)

Even today, we reside in the safest place we could ever be as we rest in the shadow of the almighty. The names describing the Lord in this passage are a great reminder that he’s the Most High and the Almighty, the only One who is all sufficient for every circumstance.
The psalm ends with the encouragement that when we love God and cling to him, he provides deliverance and protection. Certainly, that can look like physical protection on earth, but even greater is the promise of eternal safety through his salvation. We can find peace in that truth alone.

Talk to your kids about all of the times God has been faithful in the past, reminding them that he never lets us down. Explain the all-encompassing sufficiency of God, especially when we have no control. Remind them that, of all the voices speaking into the issues right now, we will choose to listen only to the voice of Truth.

Choose productivity
C.S. Lewis wrote an essay, “On Living in an Atomic Age” in 1948, just a few years after the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and in response to the Cold War becoming a new reality. Trade out the atomic bomb concerns and insert our pandemic and you’ve got some profound advice on how to best live these days:

It is perfectly ridiculous to go about whimpering and drawing long faces because scientists have added one more chance of painful and premature death to a world which already bristled with such chances and in which death itself was not a chance at all, but certainty.

This is the first point to be made: and the first action to be taken is to pull ourselves together. If we are all going to be destroyed by an atomic bomb, let that bomb when it comes find us doing sensible and human things — praying, working, teaching, reading, listening to music, bathing the children, playing tennis, chatting to our friends over a pint and a game of darts — not huddled together like frightened sheep and thinking about bombs. They may break our bodies (a microbe can do that) but they need not dominate our minds.

We may be facing the pandemic of our lifetime, but, as followers of Christ, let’s pull ourselves (and our families) together. As we’re walking these hard roads, let’s be found doing “sensible” things consistent with who we are in Jesus. Let’s not miss even one opportunity to spend time with the Lord, take care of our family, financially support those in need, and protect our elderly.

The CDC has advised us to practice “social distancing” to slow down the spread of this contagious virus. But let’s not allow spiritual distancing, or failing to see God in the midst of this, to keep us from seizing every opportunity to do good. Go to Jesus first thing every day to sustain you and lead you. Then go and do. Send the texts, drop food on the doorstep, and speak truth with every breath. Let’s refuse to be “frightened sheep” dominated by the news of the day. Instead, let’s be determined to spread the gospel to the anxious world around us.

Choose prayer
Seems obvious, right?

But I’m thankful there’s no app to measure the amount of time I’ve spent on my phone this week versus on my knees. It would be a sad measure.

Let’s get our families gathered and make it our highest priority to pray for this virus and all those impacted. Let’s be a body of Christ that is not marked by fear or apprehension but is marked by prayer.

• Pray for those who are ill and ask the Lord for his comfort and healing on each individual who is sick, praying they will know God’s peace tangibly and that he will be real in their lives (James 5:14–15, Jeremiah 30:17, 2 Chronicles 7:14–15).
• Pray for those who have not contracted the illness but are worried about it spreading. Ask the Lord to provide peace and protection from anxiety and depression and that he will be a shelter to those who are fearful in the days to come (Isaiah 41:10, John 14:27, Psalm 94:19).
• Pray for those who are working on vaccines, asking the Lord to give his infinite wisdom so no more lives will be lost. He is truly the Great Physician, so pray that he will provide the cure to this disease to someone researching a cure even at this very moment (James 1:5, Exodus 15:26).
• Pray for all of the medical personnel treating those who are ill. Ask the Lord to give them wisdom and compassion as they provide the very best care, while also providing supernatural protection for all the first responders and their families (Psalm 5:11–12, Psalm 16:1).

We’re walking uncharted territory, and it’s easy to get lost in the unknown and forget who we belong to and what we are about. Our culture needs us to point back to Jesus. Our families need us to lead well.

We have a faith that brings hope in the darkness, giving us no better opportunity than today to live on display.

Every word, every response, and every belief in the coming days is a choice. Let’s choose wisely.

“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” —2 Chronicles 7:14

“Written by Cynthis Yanoff
In recent days, as COVID-19 has been declared a global pandemic and countries have taken urgent measures to stem the spread of infection, I wish I could say that my first impulse has been to pray. It’s probably more honest to say that I’ve obsessively refreshed my feeds.

The crisis is urgent, and I feel powerless. But perhaps feeling small is the best reminder to pray. Prayer is how we actively practice believing, so simply, so confidently, that God has the whole world in his hands. It’s where we “let petitions and praises shape our worries into prayers, letting God know our concerns” (Phil. 4:6–7, The Message). Prayer is never the last resort of God’s people. It is our first point of action.

With that in mind, I’ve put together a list of 20 prayers to pray during this pandemic. Each one addresses the specific needs of a specific community. I’m fortunate to be a part of a church with many medical professionals, some of whom gave me advice on how best to pray for them at this time. I’ve included their responses here. I’ve also tried to think broadly about how the rest of us are impacted by the current crisis.

This list isn’t comprehensive, of course, but it’s a good place to start. My hope is that it can provide words for...
us as we pray collectively (if also virtually!) as a church body. We believe there is a God who bends his ear to listen, and so we pray:

1. For the sick and infected: God, heal and help. Sustain bodies and spirits. Contain the spread of infection.

2. For our vulnerable populations: God, protect our elderly and those suffering from chronic disease. Provide for the poor, especially the uninsured.

3. For the young and the strong: God, give them the necessary caution to keep them from unwittingly spreading this disease. Inspire them to help.

4. For our local, state, and federal governments: God, help our elected officials as they allocate the necessary resources for combatting this pandemic. Help them to provide more tests.

5. For our scientific community, leading the charge to understand the disease and communicate its gravity: God, give them knowledge, wisdom, and a persuasive voice.

6. For the media, committed to providing up-to-date information: God, help them to communicate with appropriate seriousness without causing panic.

7. For consumers of media, looking to be well-informed: God, help us find the most helpful local information to equip us to be good neighbors. Keep us from anxiety and panic, and enable us to implement the recommended strategies, even at a cost to ourselves.

8. For those with mental health challenges who feel isolated, anxious, and helpless: God, provide them every necessary support.

9. For the homeless, unable to practice the protocols of social distancing in the shelter system: Protect them from disease, and provide isolation shelters in every city.

10. For international travelers stuck in foreign countries: God, help them return home safely and quickly.

11. For Christian missionaries throughout the world, especially in areas with high rates of infection: God, provide them with words of hope, and equip them to love and serve those around them.

12. For workers in a variety of industries facing layoffs and financial hardship: God, keep them from panic, and inspire your church to generously support them.

13. For families with young children at home for the foreseeable future: God, help mothers and fathers to partner together creatively for the care and flourishing of their children. For single mothers and fathers, grow their networks of support.
14. For parents who cannot stay home from work but must find care for their children: God, present them with creative solutions.

15. For those in need of regular therapies and treatments that must now be postponed: God, help them to stay patient and positive.

16. For business leaders making difficult decisions that affect the lives of their employees: God, give these women and men wisdom, and help them to lead self-sacrificially.

17. For pastors and church leaders faced with the challenges of social distancing: God, help them to creatively imagine how to pastor their congregants and love their cities well.

18. For college and university students, whose courses of study are changing, whose placements are cancelled, whose graduation is uncertain: God, show them that while life is uncertain, their trust is in you.

19. For Christians in every neighborhood, community, and city: May your Holy Spirit inspire us to pray, to give, to love, to serve, and to proclaim the gospel, that the name of Jesus Christ might be glorified around the world.

20. For frontline health care workers, we thank you for their vocational call to serve us. We also pray:

- God, keep them safe and healthy. Keep their families safe and healthy.
- God, help them to be knowledgeable about the diagnosis and treatment of this disease, as well as the changing protocols.
- God, help them to stay clear-minded in the midst of the surrounding panic.
- God, deliver them from anxiety for their own loved ones (aging parents, children, spouses, roommates).
- God, give them compassion for every patient in their care.
- God, provide for them financially, especially if they fall ill and are unable to work.
- God, help Christians in health care to exhibit extraordinary peace, so that many would ask about the reason for their hope. Give them opportunities to proclaim the gospel.

God, we trust that you are good and do good. Teach us to be your faithful people in this time of global crisis. Help us to follow in the footsteps of our faithful shepherd, Jesus, who laid down his life for the sake of love. Glorify his name as you equip us with everything needed for doing your will. Amen.

_Jen Pollock Michel is the author of Teach Us to Want, Keeping Place, and Surprised by Paradox. She lives with her husband and their five children in Toronto. This piece was adapted from her recent blog._
April

Birthdays

01 Mireille Fenelon
John Kuhnmeyer
Kayley Pokrandt
Stuart Priest
07 Wyatt Schnell
Benjamin Stevensen
02 Richard Betts
Vicki Hoppiboom
Paul Jeske
Madeline Meyer
Vincent Peterson
08 Layla Schmidt
Marilyn Sinclair
03 Ayoko Adeyinka
Leanne Bitom
Tom Bystrzycki
Karim Davidson
David Ferguson
Caleb Fowler
09 Barb Brummer
Kally Lombard-Kutz
Jacob Meek
Gary Nelson
Kellen Ochiagha
Talar Ramesh
Kristin Reed
Lorraine Rogers
Robert Stolp
04 Virginia Becker-Langan
Karen Bergh
Kayla Colton
Angie Fish
Eva Hane
10 Logan Huber
Barb Barbara
Chesney Klusmann
Christopher Lee
Bonnie Pollock
Jill Radbaugh
Olivia Ramin
James Riehle
Elana Stork
12 John Tepe
05 Tyler Anderson
Elijah Semple
Josh Granlund
Taylor Karrow
Herb Lyson
Sue McNally
Margorie Prestegard
Sheleigh Sjoerzingen
Grace Stoltz
Genevieve Young
06 Amanda Docken
Lisa Horacek
Quinn Horacek
Donna Jensen
Lee Jorgensen
Diane Mengens
Elden Banitt
Jocelyn Collen
Linea Lundervold
Emma Moris
Jill Blass
Sawyer Crist
Shawn Drinovsky
Robert Fischer
Bobbi Nibbe
Ben Retter
Caitlin Wotrub
10 Barb Brummer
Barbara Cavanaugh
Peter Ehlers
James Gland
Karen Johnson
Jason LaMott
Avi Nelson
Soraya Rothchild
Kansen Schlattman
Susan Twall
Jon Bloemendal
Avery Carr
Rick Gibbs
Phyllis Letendre
Monica Monson
Patty Noren
Henry Reinhard
Christian Bertram
Jadyn Norring
JoAnne Arndt
Avery Burger
Isak Ehstrøm
Jason Haberman
Jim McCoy
Shirley Rodgers
Evan Roepke
Jesse Stone
Deb Stutelberg
Dan Timmers
Dan Arend
13 Scott Daniels
Krista de Zeeuw
Ben Feldkamp

Vicki Hunst
Ezri Jankiewicz
Sandy Lewis
David Mammenga
Mia Morgan
Emily Odegaard
Sheila Olson
Peter Cavanaugh
Karl Grant
Steve Haehn
Gary Karne
Molly Nyetel
Sharon Salmann
Kip Sander
15 Lisa Bloomer
Kyle Duffy
David Gilbert
Alison Glatzmaier
Reignie Nagel
Diane Nelsetuen
Corey Peterson
Elise Riehle
Jennifer Schmidt
Jan Steffel
Eric Welsh
Larry Woolgram
Madelon Button
Corine Clifford
Debbie Firkus
Collin Hemberger
Parker Hines
Bob Jensen
Cameo Kosanke
Elizabeth Mortenson
Isabelle Nascimento
Matthew Price
Nathan Price
John Wutke
Kelsey Anderson
Dawson Barron
Marina Cunningham
Christina Darwell
Melissa Gerver
Susan Jamison
Jack Krueger
Breck Meissner
Ashlee Schmidt
Tony Adams
Todd Albrecht
Mark Jeinek
Alexandra Johnson
Duane Johnson

Mary Law
Kaden Longworth
Amy Pfieger
Jim Anderson
Devin Gervais
Ann Goodell
Dick Peterson
Christopher Smith
Chuck Stakston
Gina Vogelsberg
Tom Crist
Kelly Mack
Norma MacKey
Rachael Scholz
Tonya Smith
Elijah Weiss
Diane Wolnher
21 Janice Belmonte
Caden Cummings
Zack deZeeuw
Morgan Jenkins
Trancy Jensen
Meggyn Gillard
Paul Pfotenhauer
Juliana Ruud
Olivia Schouweller
Eric Stifter
22 Lou Greengard
Cynthia Gustafson
Dave Hove
Dylan Jackson
Carson Loeffler
Sara Murphy
Tom Novak
Allayna Pennington
Isaac Smith
John Waldo
Piper Wick
Nicholas Reed
Tyler Reed
Roger Rodgers
Mark Rygh
Emily Schulze
Tessy Scrogg
Kayla Stadt
Charles Tank
Clara Wutolila
Jenna Blass
Denver Fleury
Brian Follert
Maximus Henderson
Gladys Keopp
Joann Kjelshus
Donna Robertson

& Anniversaries

3 Tom & Kaye Christianson
Greg & Cindy Johnson
Richard & Michele Starr
9 Gary & Sonya Anderson
Kelly & Mady Parker
11 Harold & Lori Volth
12 Michael & Laurie Muenstermann
Michael & Lisa Karcher
Tom & Carol Roeller
Larry & Emily Rosow
15 Paul & Mary Jeske
16 Dan & Judy Donovan
Jan & Tamara Karnistrand
Bob & Sandra Petrich
Jenny & Terri Swanson
Mike & Sue Zabilla
Jim & Patty Noren
Jason & Melanie Haberman
Dave & Deb Reynolds
Satoru & Hide Sudoh
James & Melissa Butzler
Tom & Ruth Camilli
Kody & Brianne Drost
Gary & Elizabeth Melin
John & Sharon Baranick
Ron & Pat Gehring
John & KC Swanlund
Joe & Kaye Bradshaw
Judy & John Pink
26 Kevin & Janna Duban

Tom & Gail Mullaney
Matt & Allison Weiss
John & Sharon Wess
Barrett & Jill Connelly
Erik & Paula Dikken
Shawn & Amanda Drinovksy
Gary & Lee Jorgensen
Charles & Renee Kenow
Neil & Mary Beth Schwartz
Brian & Shari Devine
Jean & Bob Everson
Ed & Gina Ruesch
Nathan & Katherine Williams

Jan Rowan
Katie Ellis
Roger Hopke
Vi Natt
Brelynn Olafson
Jerry Panning
Enmitt Roepke
Cameron Rud
Anna Severson
Liziai Anderson
Tom Charley
Tomi cabinets
Nikki Nelson
Shelby Sadowski
Abbey Schwarzenbach
Julia Burns
Perry Eggers
Alyssa Morningstar
Annela Morningstar
Kevin Ostrom
Tim Raberg
Jennifer Carlson
Bailey Engen
Daniel Matasovsky
Janis Myers
Grace Nixon
Wellingtong Rothchild
Charleill Zilka
Bil Lund
Maxine Lundequann
Laurie Muenstermann
MaryJo Pearson
Kallie Spates
Pat St. Germain

Sandy Hayden
Diana Jensen
Carson Johnson
Kevin Moquist
Dan Jamison
Laya Wirning
Max C. Landemar
Laurie Muenstermann
MaryJo Pearson
Kallie Spates
Pat St. Germain
Stock Donations

There are many different ways we can donate our time, talents and treasures to Woodbury Lutheran Church. One way some members choose to donate is through the transfer or donation of stocks. A donation form is located at the Connection Center. If you have questions or want more information on how to donate stock, please contact Trecie Horner at 651-731-3349.

Confirmation Journey

This is a great time to be working on confirmation packets for those who have signed up for the Confirmation Journey. What is Confirmation Journey? A year long, devotion led, family-based experience for students (7th-12th grades) designed to prepare to publicly confirm their faith in Jesus as their Lord and Savior. This process is for mature students who want to explore their personal relationship with Jesus and grow in their understanding of what it looks like to be a disciple of Jesus for a lifetime. The process involves Worshipping, Growing, Serving, and Reaching (sharing their faith with others) and is a great opportunity for students who want to personalize their faith and grow as a disciple. To set up a meeting to start your confirmation journey contact Lindsey Schmidt.

Youth Garage Sale Fundraiser (6th-Adult)

The Woodbury Lions Club Annual May Garage Sale has been rescheduled for September 17-19. Watch your youth communications for more details on this fundraiser this summer.

Paul’s Missionary Tour

Visiting Biblical sites of Athens, Corinth, Philippi, Island of Patmos, Ephesus, etc. (Oct 6-16, 2020) via bus tour and cruise. Contact Rev. Darold Reiner, retired LCMS Pastor & former Int’l LWML Counselor at (406-890-1149) imhis38@gmail.com

Tour departs from Minneapolis Airport!
Getting Connected

Garage Sale
Treasures Needed!

Have you been cleaning out and starting a stash for the Youth Garage sale? If so, please hold it a little while longer and donate it in September. The Woodbury Lion’s Club has decided to postpone the annual Woodbury garage sale (normally in May) to September 17-19 due to COVID-19. So we’re going to have a garage sale in September! The youth will be collecting those slightly used “treasures” on September 15th and 16th. More information to come as we get closer. If you have any questions please contact Shanna Salzman at 612-859-1365 or ssalzman1@comcast.net

Spiritual Conversations....Me?

Some people are good at talking about their faith; most of us aren’t. But the Bible shows us that spiritual conversations are meant to be very common. This video-based, online workshop uses data gathered by the Barna Research organization, and will help you understand more about having spiritual conversations. You’ll leave our time together with a plan for doing so. No matter where you are in your faith walk, you’ll hear helpful steps for moving ahead in this important area.

Details:
• Saturday, April 29, 9 am to Noon
• Location: the comfort of your own home!
• Cost is FREE
• Please register at this link: Spiritual Conversations
• Contact Mike Sabbann for information - sabbannm@woodburylutheran.org