



The Parish *Messenger*

AUGUST 2020 NEWSLETTER
THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR
HADDONFIELD, NJ



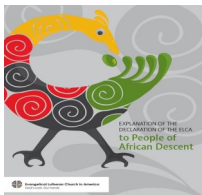
Addressing Racism in America and the Church Discussion Opportunities Begin in August

In the last three months the topic of racism has been the focus of conversation from news and social media articles, posts, and memes to everyday conversation with family, friends, co-workers and colleagues. Yet, do we understand what Racism is? Do we know the history of how it became so integrated into the systems and culture of our country, and even within the church and our denomination?

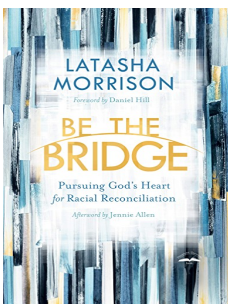
In August, Pastor Wayne Zschech and Music Director Pauline Worusski will begin a series of discussion groups on the topic of racism for those who want to better understand what it is and how we can respond to it in order to dismantle it in our society. After viewing the documentary "13th" on the Thirteenth Amendment and reading the *ELCA Declaration to People of African Descent* in August there will be a joint book study in September with members of our mission partner congregation Bridge of Peace Lutheran Church. Here are the opportunities to learn and discuss more deeply about racism in August.



"13th" Documentary: You can watch this 100 minute long documentary on Netflix or YouTube that provides an in-depth look at the prison system in the United States and how it reveals the nation's history of racial inequality. **There will be two different times to join a discussion group; Monday, August 10 and 17 from 7:30-9:00 in the evening and on Wednesday, August 12 and 19 from 9:30-11:00 in the morning.**



ELCA Declaration to People of African Descent: You can read the document from our church website under the GROW section that has a section on Racism or check out the ELCA website for documents on racism that include the Declaration. The document will be discussed on Monday, August 24 and Wednesday August 26 at the same times as above.



Be the Bridge Book Study: Copies of the book are available at the church for members to purchase in preparation for the study or you can buy your own at your local bookstore or download onto an e-reader. Discussion groups will tentatively be held on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:00 beginning on September 16.

We hope those participating find the discussion both informative and transformational in addressing and dismantling racism in our hearts, our home, our communities and nation.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Savior is a faith community that worships Jesus as our Lord, proclaims and shares God's Word, welcomes all people, serves human needs, and nurtures personal and spiritual growth through fellowship all to the glory of God.



“Thriving In the Dog Days of Summer”

By Pastor Wayne Zschech

Ever wonder why we call July and August the “dog days of summer?” I did, so I looked it up. According to Google “To the Greeks and Romans, the ‘dog days’ occurred around the day when Sirius appeared to rise just before the sun, in late July. They referred to these days as the hottest time of the year, a period that could bring fever, or even catastrophe.” These “dog days” stretch from July 22 to August 22, which coincidentally begin tomorrow as I write this article. And they must have been right because as I write this The Weather Channel has eight of the next ten days at 90 or above! The tension and temperature of race relations in the nation seems at a boiling point. Additionally, the Coronavirus continues to cause fevers in those infected and we are all fearful of the catastrophe that could occur of another surge of cases requiring ICU hospitalizations once schools reopen and students go back to class...or not. Typically August is the month when many go on vacation to rejuvenate before the hustle and bustle of the school year begins in September. But with many travel plans and vacation locations cancelled and closed I imagine many are simply hoping to survive 2020’s dog days of summer.

Yet, I wonder if we might thrive in them? I wonder if with the intensity of the heat and sociological climate of these “dog days” we might instead approach them with a bit of dyslexia and look at them as “God days” of summer, remembering that our Lord promised to be with us always, even when the heat is turned up, until the end of the age. I think about the three captive Israelites from the book of Daniel who were thrown into the fiery furnace for not worshipping the golden statue the King had erected every time they heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble. Instead they would only worship the God of Israel. Remember that one, or at least the Veggie Tales version of Rack, Shack, and Bennie (cute nicknames for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego). The furnace was so hot even the jailors who throw them in it are killed by the heat! Yet, when the King looked into the furnace he saw not three men, but four, walking around inside the furnace. Not only were they not burned up like marshmallows over an open fire, but neither was their clothing. Amidst the intense heat and fire of their ordeal the Lord was with them, protecting them, and allowing them to survive the flames, and later to even thrive in their Babylonian captivity.

As we journey through these dog days of summer heat and societal tension we would do well to remember the Lord walks with us as well. And like Rack, Shack, and Bennie, we might also engage in the practice that put them in the furnace in the first place, worshipping the one true God and not the false ones of our day. Here are my three tips for beating the heat and thriving in the dog days of summer.

1. **Take a Social Media Sabbatical:** Take a month off from social media. Instead of worshipping the latest memes and articles posted that raise our blood pressure every time we hear the horn, pipe, harp, triangle, whistle, or whatever sounds our phone notification provides why not just turn it off for a month or at least until August 22. Take a break from Facebook and Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat and see if that changes your general temperament.
2. **Practice Daily Prayer:** Even if it’s praying Martin Luther’s Morning and Evening Blessings it sets the tone for your day and before you go to sleep at night. Here they are.

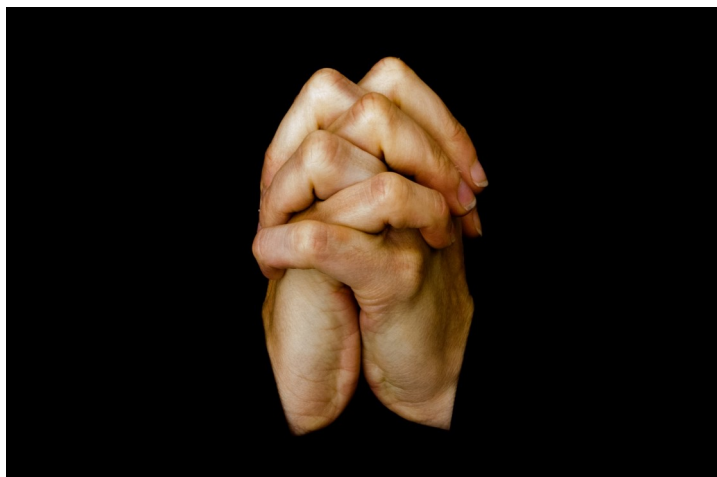
The Morning Blessing: *I give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have protected me through the night from all harm and danger. I ask that you would protect me today from sin and all evil, so that my life and actions may please you. Into your hands I commend myself: my body, my soul, and all that is mine. Let your holy angels be with me, so that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen. (Then you are to go to your work joyfully)*

The Evening Blessing: *I give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have graciously protected me today. I ask you to forgive me all my sins, where I have done wrong, and graciously to protect me tonight. Into your hands I commend myself: my body, my soul, and all that is mine. Let your holy angel be with me, so that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen. (Then you are to go to sleep quickly and cheerfully)*

3. **Rest, Re-create, and Read:** Remember all the summer projects you said you wanted to accomplish (I still have quite a few left on my list for August)? If you haven’t completed them consider paring the list down. Take time for rest each day. Go to bed earlier. Get an extra hour of sleep each night. Give your body and mind a chance to relax. Spend time in re-creation of your mind, body, and spirit with walks, hikes, or biking the neighborhood in the cooler hours of the morning or evening. And read. Read books that challenge your mind, soothe your spirit, and expand your perspective, or just simply make you feel good. It may just change the way you see the world and your part in it come August 23 when the dog days of summer are little bit behind us.

Blessings to you all in this sizzling season of summer!





Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Don & Caryl Wallace, Ethel Boyce, Luanne Fogelson, Doris Iarossi, Joyce Odendahl, Lynn Hoppe Kaminski, Jeannie, McCormick, Larry Thatcher, Art DiPadova, Scott Hansen, Tom Levecchia, Abby Phelps, Bill Getty, Roberta Cowan, Faith Marum DelPercio, Glenn Marshall, Diana Armstrong, Carmela Crawford, Natalie Parker, Kathleen Kelly, Jacob Berard, Keith Maull, Judy Hensel, Ryan Baxter, Connie Verner, Jeffrey Gross, Judy Yerkes, Daniel Mandel, Susan Maziuka, Saunders Family, Dr. Hill, Ed Miller, John Stokes, Aasiyah Bey, Barbara Kerrane, Sandy Ferguson, Joanne Horn, Bill Hoffman, Terry Mitchell, Don Hicks, Ken Koehler, Rocco D'Alessandro Jr., Bette Roncace, Nicholas Juele, Frank Marche, Beckham Williams, Ed Clarke, Jeff Simpkins, Colleen & Michael Rippman, Col. Fred C. Anderson, Fred Moffitt, Lily Gregorio, Julie Bartlett, Jimmy Lombardo, John Daggan, Betty Schurmann, Elva Mastrando, Ryan Roberts, Ann & Len Jones, Chuck Atkinson, Sophia Campos, William T family, David Wenck, Annie & family

LCOS BOOK CLUB!

The next meeting for book club will be held VIRTUALLY on Thursday, August 20 at 7:00 pm. The book for August is *Our Souls at Night* by Kent Haruf - A spare yet eloquent, bittersweet yet inspiring story of a man and a woman who, in advanced age, come together to wrestle with the events of their lives and their hopes for the imminent future.

Virtual meeting information will be sent out the week of the meeting. Please reach out to Samantha Wentz with any questions or to obtain the virtual meeting information at 609-922-4973 (text or call) or sam.wentz@gmail.com.



Our Savior's Library misses you !!

~ The Library Ladies



Pantry During Covid-19 Quarantine

Pantry Update: We are continuing the suspension of the Pantry process during the closure of the church. "Depending on the size of the family, we are sending out \$100-\$200 Acme Gift Cards to each of the Pantry Families on a monthly basis. The food items that have been donated are also being distributed. They all send their gratitude for your generosity."

Red Cross Blood Drive Friday, July 31 from 1:00-7:00



American Red Cross

While the first wave of the Coronavirus may be starting to taper off in New Jersey the need for blood donations has not. Patients requiring a stable blood supply has only increased and coupled with a decline in donors due to the quarantine the demand has never been higher for volunteers to donate blood.

On Friday, July 31, from 1:00-7:00 The Red Cross will host a blood drive at The Lutheran Church of Our Savior in the Parish Hall. Please consider volunteering to be a blood donor that day. In order to minimize the risk and fears some may have in donating at this time we ask the following for those planning to donate.

1. Enter by the sliding door main entrance on Wayne Avenue.
2. Bring and wear a mask that covers both your mouth and nose.
3. Sanitize your hands as you enter.
4. Enter the Parish Hall to the left and follow the instructions provided by the Red Cross.
5. When finished, please exit by the EXIT door to the left of the stage and exit the building by the doors at the end of the hall.

Thank you in advance for the gift of life you give to your neighbor in need.



"If you are interested in providing a musical offering (it can be a song or instrumental piece, alone or with your family, recorded remotely or in person), please let Pauline know! We can arrange a rehearsal and recording in advance, or do the performance during the livestream. We will be observing safe social distancing at all times."



**Memories, “By Your Grace Infused”:
A Musical Balm For the Soul For All Ages and Times**

*When memory fades and recognition falters,
when eyes we love grow dim, and minds confused,
speak to our souls of love that never alters,
speak to our hearts, by pain and fear abused.
O God of life and healing peace, empower us
with patient courage, by your grace infused.*
ELW 792, When Memory Fades



So much of our hymnody was written from a place of lament and yet brings comfort. This hymn was written around 2002 by Dr. Mary Louise Bringle for a friend whose mother was struggling with Alzheimer’s disease. These words speak with such gentleness to both the person experiencing the fading memory and someone who loves that person. I can only imagine how much comfort this hymn (there are two more verses after the one quotes here) has brought throughout the years and will continue to bring.

My first “gigs” were nursing homes in Germany. Usually for the honorarium of a slice of fresh pie with tea and a gift certificate to the local bookstore (the perfect compensation for this elementary school aged sweet tooth and book-worm), I would play piano pieces and hymns as the nursing home residents gathered for tea. There were several levels of engagement and cognition, and often my piano music felt like part of the sound wall of clinking tea cups and conversation. But as soon as I would start a hymn, the attention would become crystal clear. Women and men who had not uttered a word until then would break into song. It was always so emotional for me to watch something come alive in them and sing words that have been saved deep inside them. We know the saying that when we sing, we pray twice. But when we sing, we are also more likely to remember the words. I am sure you, too, have experienced others or yourself remembering words that should have long been forgotten. I challenge you to remember some hymns you learned in Sunday School - chances are, the words will come back. Let them wash over you and let yourself remember the feeling of your faith as you sing them.

We are in a period when time seems to be standing still and yet racing, our thoughts anxious and impatient, often with fear. We personally may not be struggling with memory, but we all need to experience God “speak to our souls of love that never alters, speak to our hearts, by pain and fear abused.” I hope that you will find the place in your soul and heart where you keep the memories of hymns that speak to you - hymns from your childhood, from your wedding, a mission trip, from your child’s baptism, and so on. Only you will know the special occasions and the hymns that accompany those memories. Let them bring you healing peace and comfort.

If you are watching the news and are not sure what your role is in the things happening, let God’s words and our hymns “empower us with patient courage” as we think of the journey ahead.

Let us march on till victory is won. (ELW 841)

Make liberty a beacon, strike down the iron power, abolish ancient vengeance: proclaim your people’s hour. (ELW 710)

Let righteousness roll on as others’ cares we heed, an overflowing stream of faith translated into deed. (ELW 717)

Jesus calls us, over the tumult of our life’s wild, restless sea, day by day his clear voice sounding, saying, “Christian, follow me.” (ELW 696)

Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work’s in vain, but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole, there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul. (ELW 614)





When I think back to the end of February and I was getting ready to go on maternity leave, I did not picture the end of July looking like this. I figured I would be in the middle of the craziness of Vacation Bible School and gearing up for Rally Sunday. While I am in the middle of the craziness of VBS and gearing up for Rally Sunday, I am also trying to think outside of the box to make all of it safe and fun, but also a way to remind all of kids from ages 3 years old to 18 years old, that I miss and love them all dearly!

With all of this being said, it breaks my heart to say that we will be doing Sunday School this year virtually. Pastor and I will be sending a letter out to all Sunday School families explaining how this school year will work. If your family is interested in virtual Sunday School, please let me know so I can get you all the supplies for the year. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Also, until there is a vaccine we will not be having acolytes during worship. When it comes to Oasis, we may potentially have a meeting in person in September. If we do, it will be outside, social distancing will be enforced and you MUST wear a mask. I will be sending out more information about this in the September messenger.

Since I came back from maternity leave 6 weeks earlier than planned, I will be taking time off from August 1-31st to spend some much needed time with my husband and Joey! If you need me during this time, I will be checking my emails periodically. I look forward to kicking off the fall with all of you. I pray that you are all staying safe, healthy and remembering to wear your masks! I miss you all and cannot wait until you all can meet Joey in person, in the meantime, I am adding a picture of him! :)

Jaime



Thanks to all who donated and prayed for Bridge of Peace's Vacation Bible School! With your help, we were able to give out supplies to 48 children. Parents/kids picked up a bag filled with Bible stories, activities, playdoh, bubbles, and food (milk, cereal, crackers, peanut butter, fruit, applesauce, ramen noodles, plus the theme snack for each day).

As you can see from the pictures here of my living room, your response was overwhelming and I am so thankful for your ministry!

God bless you!
Connie Wolf

Dear Congregation of Lutheran Church of Our Savior,

Though our model of support changed during COVID and the State of Emergency, we still provided shopping assistance and telephone support to our clients. This would not be possible without your support. Thank you for your donation of \$2,500.

We are grateful for your continued support of our fundraiser. Your support is our vision of "neighbors helping neighbors" in action. We are blessed by the friendship extended.

Gratefully,
Nancy DeLaura
Executive Director/Interfaith Caregivers, Haddonfield



**Interfaith
Caregivers**



Stewards of God's Love

God Comes Down to Us in Hope and Radical Abundance

On Sundays this summer during our online worship we acknowledged our sins this way:

“Reconciling God,^[L]^[SEP] we confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life.^[L]^[SEP]”

Hope is in short supply these days when we place it in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. After six months COVID-19 is not going away any time soon, and the questions and uncertainties it brought have just gotten worse, instead of better. Hope wanes, fear and frustration grow.

But after the confession above we also prayed, “Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.”^[L]^[SEP]

When we remember that God’s steadfast love comes down to us unceasingly, there’s hope, love and radical abundance to share. Now there’s a thought to carry us through whatever else 2020 throws at us!

Stewards of God's Love

Thank you to all those who are giving electronically, mailing in or dropping off their offering envelopes. While total gifts this unusual summer are not quite meeting projections, they are allowing the work of the church to go on. God’s radical abundance is making a difference in people’s lives through your gifts. Keep up the good work!

Mobile Giving



Let's Be Healthy Together!



Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings will be in our community on Friday, September 4, 2020 at Lutheran Church of Our Savior. Ultrasound screenings to identify risk factors for Cardiovascular disease include; **Carotid Artery** (plaque buildup-a leading cause of stroke), **Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm** (an enlargement or weak area in the main blood vessel that carries blood from the heart to the rest of the body), **Peripheral Arterial Disease** (hardening of the arteries in the legs), a **Heart Rhythm Screening** (an EKG to detect Atrial Fibrillation-irregular heartbeat) and an **Osteoporosis Risk Assessment** for men and women. Being proactive about your health by knowing your risks helps you and your doctor address problems early.

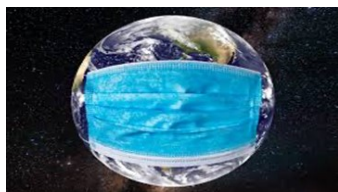
Register online **TODAY** at www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle or call 1-866-229-0469 to receive your discount and preferred appointment time.

Live Streaming Church



The more things change, the more they remain the same!

Our Environment

**For God's People and God's Planet and God's Animals**

We share God's Earth so, let's cooperate and learn together how to save God's EARTH !!

How can we help – everyone makes a mark !!

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;
for He founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.

~ Psalm 24: 1-2

Listen and sing along with 'I am the Earth' by Bushara & Harshavardhan !!

Perhaps, you remember the song from childhood !!

BE THE CHANGE GOD'S WORLD NEEDS !!

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Savior

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Worship 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM Nursery Provided at 10:30 AM

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August 2020 Messenger

Time Sensitive Material Enclosed Mailed July 28, 2020

Address Service Requested

Aug 1	Jim Ewing
Aug 1	Bob Waldner
Aug 1	Donald Webb
Aug 2	Shannon Foskett
Aug 2	Kathy Wright
Aug 4	Elianna Bickle
Aug 5	Robert LaBarge
Aug 5	Susan Remphrey
Aug 6	Hudson Amato
Aug 6	Brady Mokoid
Aug 6	David Reif
Aug 7	Reagan Bickle
Aug 7	Patricia Hughes
Aug 7	Laura Oakes
Aug 7	George Welker
Aug 8	Paul Clark
Aug 9	Joannie Johnson
Aug 10	Jon Batchelor
Aug 10	Kathleen Simpkins
Aug 11	Emilia Richards
Aug 11	Nicholas Runne
Aug 12	Norah Doyle
Aug 13	Becky Bogina
Aug 13	Emma Hodges
Aug 13	Susan Hugo



Aug 14	John DiCrescenzo
Aug 14	Ben Foskett
Aug 14	Kayann Laughlin
Aug 14	Cynthia Murphy
Aug 15	Erin Angstadt
Aug 15	Joseph Kiernan
Aug 15	Vandon Schaeffer
Aug 16	Ryan Angstadt
Aug 16	Hailey Meyer
Aug 16	Eleanor Trevena
Aug 16	Avery Visconti
Aug 16	Dick Wilson
Aug 16	Linda Doherty
Aug 17	Scarlett Jones
Aug 17	Andrew Smith
Aug 18	Susan Roeloffs
Aug 18	Richard Weldon
Aug 20	Grace Glass
Aug 20	Robert Williams
Aug 21	Michael Bare
Aug 21	Dan Cook

Aug 21	Bobbi-Jean Newsham
Aug 22	Jack Fetter
Aug 22	Brendan Newton
Aug 23	Caroline Berger
Aug 23	Harry Ellis
Aug 23	JoAnna Howley
Aug 23	Kate Morris
Aug 24	Jessica Howley
Aug 24	Susan Proko
Aug 24	John Rishel
Aug 25	Deborah Hartigan
Aug 25	Peaches Larro
Aug 26	Alison Angelone
Aug 26	Valerie Cain
Aug 26	Mike Jones
Aug 27	Ava Millard
Aug 27	Heather Morgan
Aug 28	Jeff Gross
Aug 28	Evan Turner
Aug 29	Linda Powell
Aug 29	Ingrid Wutz
Aug 31	Casey Dickerson
Aug 31	Susan Martus
Aug 31	Donna Rickert
Aug 31	Kimberly Wutz