

TIDINGS

from Irving Park Lutheran Church

April 2020, The 47th Volume, chapter 4

Inviting in Christ's Name
Proclaiming the Gospel
Living in Fellowship
Caring for Others

Phone: 773.267.1666
Web site: www.iplc.org

All activities at IPLC are **SUSPENDED**
until further notice.

"Every hand that we don't shake must become a phone call that we place... Every embrace that we avoid must become a verbal expression of warmth and concern. Every inch and every foot that we physically place between ourselves and another, must become a thought as to how we might be of help to that other, should the need arise."

-- Rabbi Yosef Kanefsky, B'nai David-Judea Congregation, Los Angeles

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Grace Stumme	Bill Sherlock
Holly Van Essen	Pastor Erin Bouman

COUNCIL PERSON EMERITI

Lloyd DaMask	
Sharon Iverson	Richard Wielock

A Prayer During Times of COVID-19

by the Right Rev. Richard Bott, current Moderator of the United Church of Canada,

who encourages that it be shared.

When we aren't sure, God,
help us be calm;
when information comes
from all sides, correct and not,
help us to discern;
when fear makes it hard to breathe,
and anxiety seems to be the order of the day,
slow us down, God;
help us to reach out with our hearts,
when we can't touch with our hands;
help us to be socially connected,
when we have to be socially distant;
help us to love as perfectly as we can,
knowing that "perfect love casts out all fear."

For the doctors, we pray,
for the nurses, we pray,
for the technicians and the janitors and the
aides and the caregivers, we pray,
for the researchers and theorists,
the epidemiologists and investigators,
for those who are sick,
and those who are grieving, we pray,
for all who are affected,
all around the world...
we pray for safety, for health, for wholeness.

May we feed the hungry,
give drink to the thirsty,
clothe the naked and house those without homes;
may we walk with those who feel they are alone,
and may we do all that we can to heal the sick—
in spite of the epidemic,
in spite of the fear.

Help us, O God, that we might help each other.
In the love of the Creator,
in the name of the Healer,
in the life of the Holy Spirit that is in all and with all, we pray.

May it be so.

Here to Help

This time of pandemic is affecting many different people in many different ways--physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually, financially. The church is here to help. Let us know ways we can support you. Reach out to Pastor Bouman or a Church Council Member or others in our church that you know, and know that you are in our prayers.



Lenten Project Update: A Table for All—Support the Night Ministry With a Donation Rather Than a Group Gathering

As part of our Lenten "A Table for All" theme, we had been offering meal-focused service projects, working closely with the Night Ministry to help provide meals for those experiencing homelessness in our city. At the beginning of March we hosted one meal-making service event, in which various people donated food for bag lunches, others put the meals together, and still others delivered them. We had planned on two other events like this, one on Sunday March 29th (providing 50 meals) and another on Saturday April 4th (providing 100 meals).

In this time of extra caution and uncertainty, in conversation with staff at the Night Ministry we **decided to suspend our physical participation** in serving these meals. It would not serve those in need to provide meals but risk infecting anyone with the COVID-19 virus.

However, **we as a congregation are still committed to supporting those served by the Night Ministry** albeit in a new way, by making a financial contribution. The Night Ministry has also shifted its ways of distributing food and offering support, and says that financial contributions are the most helpful way to support what they do at this time.



Helping with the Lenten Service project: the Kongsbruck family with Rio and Gunner and Jason.

If you signed up to help on either March 29th or April 4th -- or if you were planning to -- would you consider making a special financial contribution instead?

This will allow the Night Ministry to serve meals on these and other days under safer conditions for volunteers, paid staff, and clients alike. You might consider each meal costing \$8, and so decide to

"sponsor" a certain number of meals for either day, but whatever amount you can contribute would be a great help. We have let the Night Ministry know we will be making financial contributions that would support the work they do, especially to cover the meals for which we signed up. You can make the contribution by:

- **Mailing in a check to the church**—Make it out to IPLC and note Night Ministry in the memo.
- **Making a contribution to IPLC on-line**—Go to the IPLC website and click on the red Give Now button, then select Specialized Ministry, Miscellaneous, and then type in Night Ministry.

IPLC will then send the contributions to the Night Ministry.

This is a time of uncertainty as we venture into the unknown together. We want to walk hand in hand with this ministry even if it feels strange that this accompaniment is at a distance. We appreciate your continued commitment to IPLC, to the Night Ministry, and to our greater community in this time of great need.

Thank you and continued prayers for everyone's health and safety.

Jason Fugate

Ministry in Context Student at IPLC,

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

A Palm Cross for You, Made by Lloyd DaMask We will not be parading around and into the building, as we have for so many years, but we are still the church. We still honor this day and **we share with you a special memento of it, tucked into this newsletter, a palm cross made by Lloyd DaMask**. Special thanks to Phil Bole for driving the palms out to Lloyd's house, many miles away; special thanks to Lloyd for carefully folding more than 200 crosses and then delivering them back to IPLC; special thanks to Sally Burke for individually inserting and enclosing them into this issue of Tidings. We encourage you to take this cross and take a walk around your neighborhood, including and especially on April 5th. Ponder the implications of this pandemic. Ponder the Passion of our Lord. Pray for the day when we can meet together again, and until then keep walking in the way of Christ, who cannot be contained in any building.

Daily Reflections Sent Via Email – Sign Up to Receive And / Or Write One!

As one way of staying connected with and encouraging one another during the shut down we've been sending out daily reflections via email. (If you are not receiving these and would like to, please email Pastor at erinbouman@sbcglobal.net) Many different people have let us know that they find these daily reflections comforting -- and how meaningful it is to hear from many different people. We would love for you to be one of these reflection writers! Let Pastor know and she will assign you a date. Then by 3 pm on that day email her a picture of yourself (or we can use one from the directory) and your reflection (you might write about what and how you are doing, what and where faith is for you right now, and things that are bringing you strength and peace). Thank you!

IPLC Women's Volleyball Team finished in second place—by a hair. We'll edge out our rivals St. James next year!

IPLC Men's Basketball Team almost won their last game! (Or at least were ahead for the first three quarters). They are considering continuing regular Sunday afternoon practices, once the Gym opens up again.

Finances & Offerings – Concerns & Thanks

This time of national emergency has far-reaching financial implications and will be completely devastating for some, including people in our congregation. If your livelihood has been affected, please know you are in our thoughts and hearts and prayers. If you are not in a place to continue supporting the

church, know that the church is here to support you. If you are able to continue supporting the church, know that it is being impacted financially as well. Income from “Hall Use,” (contributions from gym users and AA groups) which has helped the church operate in the black in recent years, has come to a complete halt, as have contributions received during Sunday morning worship services in the offering plate. We are continuing operations, albeit in different ways. Your support helps us do this.

- If you are a sustaining giver (you give regularly through electronic fund transfer) THANK YOU! Your willingness to make this kind of commitment, which might be getting harder as the economy struggles, is life-giving for the financial well-being and long term prospects of the ministry of Irving Park Lutheran Church.
- If you give regularly by cash or check in the offering plate, you can continue your giving at a distance by mailing in checks, or by making weekly contributions online. You could also consider signing up for recurrent giving online or through your bank.
- If you give from appreciated assets, know that your gifts are making a difference in our community and around the world. Even as markets fluctuate, through IPLC and our benevolence to the wider church (the Metro Chicago Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), Lutherans consistently do life-giving and life-saving ministry in our city and around the world.

Highlights from the March Council Meeting

Pastor’s Report: Completed Annual Report for the ELCA, current baptized membership is 367 with 23 new members in 2019. Membership make-up includes people of various religious and cultural background, LatinX, African Americans, Native Americans, people from the Middle East, and Multiracial, an estimated 87% of members are white.

Treasurer’s Report: Audit Committee met and completed report, with Dave Heidorn appointed as an interim replacement for Maggy Pulex, who was unable to continue serving on the committee.

Learning: Souper Bowl of Caring was very successful, many valentines sent, planning for Bishop’s visit and round table discussions on race.

Service: Supporting Lenten Volunteer opportunities and working on social justice emphases including learning and serving opportunities, including a Criminal Justice Sunday

Property: Three of the four heaters in the church are now working. Various roof issues will need to be addressed, including the parsonage roof (received various bids of about \$9,000), roof over north tower of sanctuary and narthex “bump,” and gym roof. Have received one bid for sanctuary roof issues, more bids needed as well as overall plan for when to address these issues and how to pay for them.

Witness: Working on ways to improve the presence of IPLC on social media

Worship: Planning for Lent & Holy Week

For the good of IPLC (the Council always ends the meeting by noting positive things of the past month): Seeing Rich and Grace in church, Girl Scouts making cards for Miriam Circle to those who are on prayer list, Making food for the Night Ministry, Black History Month Worship Services

and Music

Special Church Council Meeting March 15, Special Virtual Meeting March 29

At a special meeting after church on March 15, with heavy hearts and much concern for individuals that count on our spaces for physical, mental, and spiritual well-being, the Church Council suspended all church programs and all activities in all church buildings for two weeks, to combat the spread of the coronavirus.

On Sunday March 29th at a special virtual “Zoom” meeting, the Church Council discussed how we’ve been operating during the suspension, special needs in the congregation and community, the impact on the church financially, and extending the suspension. The Council determined to continue the suspension at least through April 20th, even longer as per the guidance of the mayor, governor, and medical experts.

The Council will continue holding regular virtual meetings and will continue to be in contact via email with each other and the congregation as a whole, sharing updates with the congregation via e-newsletters.

CARLSON COMMUNITY SERVICES CORNER

World Beat Percussion Trio Concert Cancelled The World Beat Percussion Trio concert scheduled for April 26th has been cancelled. The new federal guidelines to remain socially distant extend through April 30th and restrict groups of more than 10 from gathering. The committee is disappointed to cancel the concert, but we understand the need to be safe during this extraordinary time. We hope to reschedule the concert for next season. Please watch for information about a Fine Arts virtual performance.

Carlson Update from Liz Mills, Executive Director The year 2020 will be forever remembered in my mind as the year of cancellations and postponements. When we decided not to hold Soup & Bread due to scheduling conflicts, I never dreamt that our March Madness fundraiser and remaining Fine Arts concert would be cancelled too!

Ordinarily in April we’d making plans for cultivating and planting Three Brothers Garden, from which we took off 2019 after the IPLC parking lot expansion. We are following the guidelines of Neighbor Space, an organization that supports community gardens, about how to garden safely. We’ll be getting our hands dirty in the garden as soon as it is determined safe for community gardeners to work together.

Most of all, we have been sad to suspend our after-school program until CPS is back in session. We miss the energy and spirit the kids bring to the IPLC gym every day, and worry that their parents are finding adequate care. Program Director Rachel Lockhart is in touch with families and is offering them fun games and activities to keep the kids occupied while they shelter in place. She’s also offered Carlson as a resource to help parents through any hardships they may face.

Although we are disappointed to temporarily suspend so much of our programming, that disappointment pales in comparison to the threat presented by Covid-19. Our gatherings will be all the more sweet when we emerge from our homes to come together as a community. To keep up to date on when our programming resumes, follow us on Facebook or sign up for our newsletter at carlsoncommunityservices.org. On behalf of the Carlson Board and Committees, we wish you and your family good health, financial stability and peace during these anxious times.



T I D I N G S
From Irving Park Lutheran Church
 3938 W. Belle Plaine Ave.
 Chicago, IL 60618-1997

Address Service Requested

81 Easter Baskets Delivered to the Irving Park Food Pantry Worship and church programming are suspended, but faithful actions are not! Alert to the possibility of upcoming restrictions— and before they happened, Holly and Lundquist went to the Dollar Store, knowing that a good amount of donations had already been received. Some time ago Holly had been planning on coordinating a group Easter basket assembly project with the Girl Scouts on a Wednesday evening before Lenten worship, but with group gatherings no longer safe, she and Larry put the baskets together themselves.



APRIL—BIRTHDAYS

- 2 AJ Holub
- 4 Raymond Hublar
- 8 Ruth Meberg Stine
- 9 Marilyn Hansen
- 10 Roberta Bole
- 12 Margaret Bole
- 16 Olivia Goddard
- 18 Kaytee Bole
- 18 Rhianna Reum
- 18 Alexander Rucinski
- 20 Phil Bole
- 22 Adrian Raygor
- 23 Alexandra Madsen
- 24 Dennis Sherlock
- 24 Lucas Tysick
- 25 Amyya Garcia
- 25 Greg Petersen
- 26 Mitchell Benson
- 26 Kaitlyn Monday
- 26 Katie Sherman
- 29 Fiona Enger
- 30 Janice Glure
- 30 Beverly Harrington
- 30 Penelope Niermann
- 30 Isaiah Stumme

ANNIVERSARIES

- Rebecca & Elmer Haneberg
4/19/1986
- Karen & Ralph Greenslade
4/30/1977

The Pantry wrote in response, "You really went above and beyond to make up so many baskets for us. We should be in really great shape, even if our numbers keep rising (they were up about a third this past week). I appreciate having so many and having them divided up for easy selection to give to clients. We really appreciate you helping to make kids a little happier in this difficult time!" The Irving Park Food Pantry continues to operate, though some other pantries have shut down. They have changed their distribution pattern so there is very little contact between people, and are also limiting the number of volunteers at each shift. They report that they currently have sufficient volunteers, and that the best way to help right now is with monetary donations, since they can then order the items most needed. You can give to the Pantry directly, or make a contribution to IPLC and note Pantry in the Memo or select them on the IPLC online giving link.

From Holly: To everyone who contributed to the Easter Basket Collection! Your generosity allowed us to make 81 baskets-ten baskets in eight different categories! We made them up and packed them up and Pastor Bouman and her son John picked them up from our home and delivered them to the Irving Park Food Community Pantry! Thank you for helping IPLC continue this very special tradition.