

# TIDINGS

## from Irving Park Lutheran Church

May 2020, The 47<sup>th</sup> Volume, chapter 5

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

Phone: 773.267.1666

Web site: [www.iplc.org](http://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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Larry Kimpel

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Grace Stumme

Bill Sherlock

Holly Van Essen

Pastor Erin Bouman

### COUNCIL PERSON EMERITI

Lloyd DaMask

Sharon Iverson

Richard Wielock

## *Finding Comfort in Strange Times & Feeling the Pull*

What strange times these are—and what an opportunity to trust in something bigger than ourselves and to embody God's love in service to others. Or, in other words, what an opportunity to witness. And we are witnessing, in ways large and small, visible and invisible—and audible, as is clear in an email we recently received (and to which we promptly and warmly responded):

I'm not even sure how to start this, but I live in the area and hear your bells every day. I find them to be of comfort, especially during this strange time we're all living in. I was raised Lutheran, but haven't been to church regularly in probably 30 years (since junior high). Current events have caused a pull in my soul back to God and church, but I wouldn't even know where to start, or if I can be forgiven for not always being the best person I could be. I've gotten a lot of things wrong in my life, but I hope that there is still time to get things right. I plan to attend Irving Park Lutheran once distancing measures are lifted, and I'm very nervous. I would love some guidance, but just don't know where to go from here. Thank you for reading this far, I hope to see the congregation soon. -- NAME

Like the writer of that note, I too hope to see the congregation soon—but I also know that what is meant by "soon" needs to be redefined. It's less a time period to rush towards than a statement of confidence that we will get through this. And we will. At some point, following the guidance of our governor and mayor, we will be able to resume church activities. When we do, it will be in a careful, gradual way. We will not begin operating again just as we were before the coronavirus pandemic hit. Rather, we will still have to be doing things differently for a time, still maintaining spatial distances and being especially mindful of people who are especially vulnerable. Much as we long for kisses on the cheek from an old friend, we will keep it clean (for a while).

In the meantime, as we feel that pull to church and to seeing the people whom we miss, we can remember that the pull to God does not depend on a building, and we can remember that the people who regularly populate that building have not gone anywhere. (Literally, we have not gone anywhere.)

We can remember, too, that our empty church is still very much active, is still living out its mission—now in living rooms and zoom rooms, in phone calls and emails and conversations that you have with partners and parents and children. Our church is living out its mission in the generosity you show towards your neighbor and in your care and concern for a world in crisis. In intimate and vital ways you are still being the body of Christ in a world where so many bodies are not well. Be well, dear church, and be at peace, Christ is with you.

-- Pastor Erin Bouman

**Children's Communion Lessons Postponed** If you have been checking your Sunday School refrigerator magnet, which includes key dates for the Sunday School year, you may have noticed that on Saturdays in April we were supposed to have Children's Communion Lesson and a special Children's Communion Sunday. Because these lessons are so physically dependent (they include arts and crafts and cooking and a brunch and a musical rehearsal as well as communion reception rehearsal...) they have been postponed to the summer or fall. We look forward to the day we can again be the body of Christ in person together—and eat it together as well!

### Highlights of the April Council Meeting

- The Council met using Zoom
- The office receives many emails and FB posts from neighbors indicating how comforting the hymns played on the carillon have meant during this difficult time. One neighbor included a check for \$100.
- Pastor Bouman has worked with teams to find ways to reach out to our congregation during this pandemic. Learning team is contacting all Sunday School students, and having Zoom adult Bible Study on Sunday mornings. Witness team is calling all members of the congregation. Worship Team is planning all of the Holy Week services via enews, as well as daily reflections. Service Team distributed 81 Easter baskets to the Food Pantry and \$1400 to the Night Ministry
- CARES act-we submitted a request for a loan to small businesses (which includes churches)
- March Income-For the first month of pandemic, our income remained steady, and our expenses are “barebones.”
- Many thanks to the Haneberg family for refinishing the gym floor!
- When do we open our doors again? We will follow the guidelines set by Governor Pritzker and Mayor Lightfoot.

**A Gym Floor Like Liquid Gold** With programming in the Gym suspended, the Haneberg family seized upon the opportunity to refinish the floors, giving the surface a much needed and much more thorough treatment than it has had in some time, and perhaps ever. Not everyone does family bonding while sheltering-in-place like this, but we are SO grateful that the Hanebergs do! The floor looks truly amazing. We are touched by yet another story of people of IPLC taking the straw of tough times and turning it into gold.



**Prayers with the Pastor in Pajamas** All the children of IPLC are invited to see one another and (virtually) say hi and catch up, hear a Bible story, and share an evening prayer Saturdays at 6:30 pm. Also, each week a different class is invited to join the meeting at 6:15, for special age-specific connecting. The entire gathering ends at 6:45 pm, so hopefully doesn't interfere too much with dinner or bedtime – and can be a holy way to close the day! Children are encouraged to wear their pajamas (Pastor does!) and to bring stuffed animals to the meeting, or pets. The Zoom information is sent out via Sunday School enewsletters, or you may contact the pastor for the link.



**Ways to Worship and Deepen Faith and Learning While Sheltering in Place** Every Sunday morning every member is emailed via Constant Contact an interactive bulletin that includes audio & video recordings, which is also posted on Facebook, Instagram, and our website. Parts of the services are also available on the IPLC You Tube channel. You can participate—or participate again—in these worship opportunities any time after they're posted, and please share them with others. Every day (other than Sunday) we sent out via email an afternoon Daily Faith Reflection. A different member writes the reflection each day, and many comment on how much they appreciate variety of witnesses. We would love it if yet more people signed up to offer a reflection! Choirs and soloists are using technology to unite us in musical contemplation and adoration. There are Zoom Adult Bible Studies Sunday mornings, Zoom Confirmation Classes Saturday mornings, and Zoom stories and prayers for younger children on Saturday evenings. “Sunday School @ Home” curriculum is being shared from our friends at the Indiana-Kentucky Synod. The booklet “The Word in Season,” a daily devotional that comes out quarterly and usually available for pick-up at the back of church may be sent to any member who requests it.

**News from Carlson Community Services from Liz Mills, Executive Director** Greetings from quarantine! As we enter another month of sheltering in place, I'm hopeful that we'll soon be able to resume some aspects of Carlson programming, especially work in **Three Brothers Garden**. The garden was fallow in 2019, and our gardeners are itching to get back to work. We're especially eager to resume providing the Irving Park Food Pantry with fresh produce. Rebecca Haneberg and the Garden Committee are coming up with ways to garden at a social distance. We'll tell you more soon!

We were disappointed to postpone our April 26<sup>th</sup> World Beat Percussion Trio, but the Trio has agreed to reschedule the concert for our 2020/2021 season. I'm excited that Bing has put together another great **Fine Arts** season, which might look a bit different given social distancing guidelines. Plus, stay tuned for information about virtual Fine Arts concerts!

Although the MAP program is finished for the year, we'll be gathering with the **Magic After-School Place** team over the summer to show them our appreciation for the incredible impact they have on MAP families and students. MAP Director Rachel is still hard at work, researching grants, planning for next year and staying in touch with MAP families.

To keep up to date on when our programming resumes, follow us on Facebook or sign up for our newsletter at [carlsoncommunityservices.org](http://carlsoncommunityservices.org). On behalf of the Carlson Board and Committees, we wish you and your family good health and peace during these anxious times.

*Carlson Community Services is a 501c3 non-profit started by Irving Park Lutheran Church in 2006. Its mission is to connect the Irving Park Community with programs that enrich lives through education, culture and service.*

## HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

Early in 1918, IPLC members were enjoying their new church building. The building had been dedicated a few months earlier, on Oct. 31, 1917, the 400th anniversary of the Reformation. IPLC members also were busy making plans to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the founding of our church (Dec. 30, 1903) at the end of the year.

While IPLC members were enjoying their new building, two major news stories were shaping the world.

World War I was in its final days. The “War to End All Wars,” which began July 28, 1914, officially ended Nov. 11, 1918. But there was another major news story that was developing during the fall of 1918: The Flu Pandemic, also known as the Spanish Flu.

The Historically Speaking research department thought it would be interesting to see if there was any mention of the Flu Pandemic in the 1918 editions of the IPLC Forsamlings-Bladet, the predecessor of the IPLC Tidings. At that time, the congregational newsletter was a mix of articles written in English and Swedish. While it may have been addressed in the Swedish articles, our ability to read Swedish is, in a word, zilch. Like zero, the same number of references to the pandemic mentioned in the English articles.

There is an interesting article we found that dealt with how Chicago churches handled and were affected by “The American Influenza Epidemic of 1918-19.” It can be found at <https://www.influenzaarchive.org/cities/city-chicago.html#>. (It might be easier to just Google “Spanish flu in the Chicago area 1918.”)

The article says the flu arrived in the area Sept. 8, 1918, when a few sailors at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station fell ill with the disease and quickly spread throughout the area. On Oct. 15, a health Advisory Commission ordered that all theaters, movie houses ... and “all other places of public amusement” were to close immediately. Churches were left off the list and were not required to close. Clergy were asked to keep their services short and make sure their buildings were well ventilated.

In perusing the Forsamlings-Bladet from that era, there were a few interesting items that we didn’t recall seeing before. We’ll take a look at what was happening at IPLC during those incredible years in next month’s edition of The Tidings.

— *Ralph Greenslade*

**A Table for All – Meals Provided in Different Ways** The Lenten Project supporting the Night Ministry had to shift from in-person volunteering to a special appeal—and promptly raised more than \$1400 for meals for people who are housing insecure and especially vulnerable to the coronavirus. This was over and above another \$680 that was raised for the Night Ministry at the Souper Bowl of Caring. The two checks were sent in late March and Mid April, providing support for the meal program at critical times.



**Dorothy "Kris" Helgeson July 3, 1929 - April 19, 2020**  
Dorothy Helgeson, 90, known to many as "Kris," died on Sunday, April 19th. Kris had been living in a memory care facility for more than six years and remained physically strong, even earning a fond descriptor: "She's a great Dane," but in the past eight days her condition changed. With the nation sheltering in place and the elderly especially at risk, the facility had been closed to visitors for more than a month, but the hospice workers made an exception for Kris in her last days. Kris's daughter, Marie Grunst, was able to be with her mom all week -- holding her hand, talking to her, tucking her in a special blanket -- as well as when Kris passed away, very peacefully, at 4:30 pm the Sunday after Easter. "Now she is able to be with my dad," Marie said. A memorial service for Kris will be held some time in the future, when people are able to gather together and celebrate her long, full, caring, and capable life, and all that she meant to her family and to her family at church. Kris and her husband Ray were pillars of the congregation for years. Rest eternal grant her Oh Lord, and may light perpetual shine upon her.

**WITH HEARTFELT THANKS.** (From Holly Lundquist)  
**To Pastor Bouman.** In this most unusual time of the Pandemic, Pastor Bouman has worked so diligently to keep our church family connected. She has insured that we can continue to have worship experiences every Sunday, as well as Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. Each service contained a sermon where we could actually see her on YouTube. There was even a Zoom coffee hour on Easter Sunday! She has arranged for different people to share their thoughts through the Daily Reflections. You can find them in your email everyday around 4 o'clock. She has made sure that the various teams, Council, and Bible Study groups continue to meet as scheduled via Zoom. Pastor Bouman arranged for the Witness Team to contact all IPLC members via phone calls. She has checked in with many members via phone as well, and meets with Confirmation students via Zoom for their regular lesson. She also has started “Prayers and Pajamas with Pastor” on Saturdays! While we can’t wait to see each other at church again, we are so grateful to Pastor Bouman for doing so many things to help us stay connected.

**To Roger Bingaman.** During this unique time, Bing has found ways to keep wonderful music possible for us during the Pandemic. He has provided music for some of the daily reflections and he has made sure that there was music for all of our worship services. It meant so much to hear the moving music of Good Friday, and sing the Good Friday hymns. To the amazement of many, we heard the beautiful hymns of Easter complete with brass! He has taught the choir how to record themselves singing their part of an anthem and then putting it together so that we can hear the choir. Bing has arranged for our soloists to record from their homes, and then placing it on YouTube so that it could be heard within our worship services. While we look forward to hearing the music in church we are so thankful that it has not disappeared from our lives during this long time of “shelter in place.”

**Send Us a Picture of Yourself in a Dressy Hat on Mother's Day.**



**Sunday May 10<sup>th</sup>** We often encourage people to wear festive hats to church on Mother's Day and while we can't be together in person, we'd still like to see pictures of people in special headwear, so we can make a special collage to share with everyone. Please send the pictures to office@jplc.org. Thanks!

**Thank You for Your Generosity** Thought we have lost all income from contributions for Gym & Hall Use and from loose cash or checks placed in the Sunday offering plate, many, many people are mailing in contributions and/or are continuing (or starting) to give online. We are incredibly moved by this ongoing support. We are keeping expenses well below budget and while income is not up to the budgeted amount, it is currently still a bit ahead of expenses. We are mindful that the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic may be just beginning. If you are in a precarious financial situation, please do not hesitate to be in touch with us, the church is here to help!, and to adjust your offering accordingly. If you are in a place to continue—or even increase—your support, know that it enables the church to continue being the church today and in the future.



# T I D I N G S

From Irving Park Lutheran Church

3938 W. Belle Plaine Ave.

Chicago, IL 60618-1997

Address Service Requested

## MAY—BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Dana Buetow
- 2 Amanda Guillame
- 3 Nathan Beltran
- 3 Lucas Beltran
- 3 Jessica Greenslade
- 5 Kyle Rogers
- 5 James Stine
- 6 Laura Medaglia
- 9 Jane Niermann
- 9 Marcella Olson
- 10 Karla Hood
- 12 Aidan Gettings
- 12 Pam Nigro
- 13 Natalia Nieves
- 14 Sara Anderson
- 17 Grace Stumme
- 19 Alissa Carlson
- 19 Karl Grunst
- 19 Sarah Rogers
- 21 Adam Niermann
- 21 Naomi Stine
- 22 Genevieve Gardner
- 24 Sonja Patterson-Brown
- 25 Danielle Desecki

- 25 Heather Hjelmgren
- 25 John Rodriguez
- 26 Dana Rausch
- 27 Jack Bacoulis
- 27 Christopher Johnson
- 29 Ginia Jahrke
- 30 Kristina Crook
- 30 Krista Grunst

## Anniversaries

- 5/2/1987 Michelle & Joseph Jr. Freels
- 5/2/1998 Rachelle & Anthony Raygor
- 5/7 Sherry & John Rodriguez
- 5/15/1971 Janice & Fred Glure
- 5/20/2006 Ellen & Dan Wheeler
- 5/24/2009 Adam & Amanda Guillame
- 5/21/1994 Holly & John Van Essen

## Lectors & Assisting Ministers

- 5/3 Clair Anderson—Dec Kimpel
- 5/10 Bill Sherlock—David Hall
- 5/17 Bob Reitor—Eleanor Kepp
- 5/24 Chris Comella—Need
- 5/31 Greg Petersen—Need