

TIDINGS

from Irving Park Lutheran Church

June 2020, The 47th Volume, chapter 6

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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Coordinators

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Mike Duray

Brook Enger

Geah Escobedo

Garret Fitzgerald

Sue Geisler

Nancy Hall

Eleanor Kepp

Cindy Kuhn

Larry Kimpel

Holly Lundquist

Grace Stumme

Bill Sherlock

Holly Van Essen

Pastor Erin Bouman

COUNCIL PERSON EMERITI

Lloyd DaMask

Sharon Iverson

Richard Wielock

Looking Back, Looking Forward

This past Memorial Day I thought back to Memorial Day one year ago. It was a warm and sunny day last year as well. I remembered going for a walk in the morning and getting a phone call from a home health aide who had been visiting Richard Koehler. For the past several months Richard had been experiencing additional health issues, which were affecting his eyesight and mobility and preventing him from coming to church. He had always been such a regular in Bible Study and worship; he always sat in the same place, near the front on the pulpit side. People at church missed him and were asking about him. It had been hard to be in contact with Richard. He was also having trouble using the phone or his beloved computer, but I was finally able to see him (thanks to a member whose hairdresser was his landlady). He had lost a significant amount of weight, but he had just had a shave, his spirit was as bright and strong as ever, and he was touched that so many people were asking about him. We prayed together.

That visit was about a week before Memorial Day. The call from the home health aide was to let me know that Richard had died. The next day I had a call from Lloyd DaMask. Lloyd and his beloved wife Marie also rarely missed a Sunday, even though they lived a considerable distance away. Still, bright and early every Lord's Day you could find them pattering around the church kitchen. During the service they tended towards the narthex. They had been at IPLC just that past Sunday. Lloyd was calling to let me know that Marie had died. One on Memorial Day, the next the day after, each loss rocked our church, radiating through it. As did another extremely painful loss later last summer: Garrett Brodersen, who would sit at the piano bench in our sanctuary, making the most glorious music.

By the time this newsletter reaches you, it is likely that U.S. deaths from the coronavirus will exceed 100,000. It is hard to fathom so large a number, but each one of those losses surely rocked their loved ones, and radiated out far beyond as well. As of this writing, as far as I am aware, we have not lost anyone in our congregation due to COVID-19. Nor have I been told of any members who have had confirmed diagnoses. But many in our church know people who have contracted it, some know some who have died from it, and we've all been affected by the coronavirus, in ways large and small and still to be seen.

One of the ways do see, that we have all been affected, is that we all have had to miss so very many Sundays sitting in favorite pews, walking in and around a sacred building full of so much meaning. I mourn that, as I mourn all that has been lost, all who have died. But I want to tell you about something else that I see, right outside our church: a bush that we planted last fall, on top of Richard's ashes. We poured them into a hole while singing: "All of us go down to the dust, but even at the grave we will make our song. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia." That bush is now thick with leaves.

We are still checking in with those we miss seeing. We are still praying. We are still worshiping, in ways small and large. The witness and spirit of those who have died live on. Our bare branches will one day be filled with leaves.

-- Pastor Erin Bouman



Worshipping While Following the Mayor's Orders For the health and safety of all, we're still not meeting in the sanctuary, but we continue to adapt our online worship, which now has a "single-click" format – a video sent out Sunday mornings via email and which is also available on our website, Facebook page, Youtube channel, or on Instagram. We invite you to worship with us from your couch (or while on a walk, or at your desk) on Sunday mornings, or afternoons, or evenings, or a weekday after it's posted, and to widely share the links with others—a great opportunity for evangelism! The service is a compilation of components offered by various people: readers and prayer leaders and young gospel-acclaimers and preachers and special musicians and anthems created by individual recordings being layered together to create a virtual choir. It's a wonder how it all comes together—with much thanks to our Director of Music, Bing. The video compilation format allows us to continue involving numerous people as Partners in Worship, a value of our congregation even when not worshipping online, and can be created while adhering to social distancing guidelines. **We are always eager for yet more contributors to worship: readers, singers, prayer leaders, musicians**, contact Pastor or Bing if interested, and THANK YOU to all who are part of this on any given week.

We will follow all guidelines regarding re-opening: CDC, City of Chicago and Metro Chicago Synod / ELCA churchwide. According to state and city guidelines, Phase Four allows for groups of 50 people to meet, at which time the Council may consider returning to the sanctuary for worship. We do not know when this will be, but we know that worship will also look quite different in this phase. It would need to include a live stream option for any who for any reason cannot attend worship in person. We will likely have two services and they may need to be in two different locations. To attend, you may need to sign up for a service via Sign Up Genius, to ensure that numbers are capped at 50. Bulletins may be placed in pews, rather than handed out, to reduce contact and also as a way to indicate where household groups may sit to maintain social distancing. Guidelines state that no group singing is allowed and even group speaking is not advised, so we will need to figure out how to safely add music and drama to the service, if possible. Holy Communion and Offering and Sharing of the Peace and many other elements of worship will also need to be different. All of this is still in development and subject to change, but one thing is not: wherever and however we worship, we are still the body of Christ, giving God thanks and praise, receiving grace and the power of the Spirit.

Congregational Meeting - Sunday June 14, 10:30 am All members are invited to a special congregational meeting at 10:30 am on Sunday, June 14, via Zoom (You may join via computer or telephone). The Zoom log in will be sent a few days prior to the meeting. We'll hear a brief update on church operations and a proposal to replace the parsonage roof, which is in poor condition. The IPLC constitution does not allow non-budgeted expenditures in excess of \$5,000 to be made without congregational approval. The Property Team has been reviewing larger projects that need to be done and this one is a top priority. They've received four different estimates on the work and have a recommendation for one by a local company with strong reviews, to do the parsonage and garage roofs for \$10,300 this summer. We will vote on a motion from Council to do this work, drawing on the Building Preservation Fund, which currently has \$15,000 in it. Please join us!

Church Operations Continue, Thanks To Your Generosity So many people continue to give generously online or to mail in contributions—thank you!—including a special recent gift from Kenrick Farb, the son of a pastor who served at IPLC several decades ago. He included this note with his check: "With contributions probably off a bit due to social distancing, church operating expenses still need to be paid. Se we'd like to help out. May God bless Irving Park Lutheran Church staff, members of the congregation and your missions throughout these challenging times." The church has also received support through from the federal government through the PPP and EIDL programs. The Council continues to closely monitor expenses. Our current financial position is stable, but we know that the economic impact of the pandemic will be felt for some time. Some members have lost their jobs and others may follow. Our hearts go out to them—and we can do more than simply sympathize. As a congregation we have supported vulnerable members in the past and can do so in this crisis as well. If you are in a precarious financial situation, please do not hesitate to be in touch with us 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.

Pastor Bouman's Day Off: Mondays Instead of Fridays You also may be experiencing that days and boundaries are a bit of a mush these days... In an effort at better Sabbath time and work time practices, and taking into account that making online worship services end-loads the work week, Pastor Bouman's "day off" is moving from Fridays to Mondays. She's still available Mondays for emergencies, but will try to refrain from email.

Prayers for Graduates: On Sunday June 7th in our prayers we'll give thanks to God for graduating students: for 8th grade, high school, college, and other advanced degrees received by members of our congregation this spring. Please let us know if you have a graduate in your household so we are sure to name them (773-267-1666 or office@iplc.org). We'd also like to list what's next for the students, if known.

Highlights of the May Council Meeting

Most of the Teams met via Zoom during April. Pastor Bouman received positive feedback for the Daily Reflections.

- Our income for April was greater than our expenses.
- The Irving Park Community Food Pantry has had a great increase in the number of clients they are serving: about 70/week before the pandemic, now 250/week (which could be up to 1000 individuals. The Council passed a motion to send an immediate contribution of \$2,000 to the Food Pantry to help with their need, with funds to be taken from Pastor's Discretionary Fund.
- The Catch Basin (between the church and Parsonage) repair work has begun.
- The Council approved a motion brought by the Property Team to replace the roof on the parsonage and the garage by BOCC for \$10,300, using funds from Building Preservation. Because this exceeds the \$5,000 limit that the Council can spend, we will have a virtual Congregation Meeting on Sunday, June 14.
- When do we open our doors again? We will follow the phases outlined by Governor and Mayor.
- For the good of IPLC (the Council always ends the meeting by noting positive things of the past month: Roger Bingaman and his work with a choir, that is mostly working very hard to learn new technologies. to record the anthems, Children's alleluia as part of the Sunday Worship, Daily Reflections, Pastor's sermons, all of the contributions to IPLC made by Kris Helgeson during her life.

Adult Bible Study: Summer Meetings Sundays 9:30-10:30 am (Except the 1st Sunday of the Month, please join the 10 am coffee hour that day). We'll meet via Zoom to study the Bible readings for the day and deepen our prayer lives together. Pastor Bouman will be facilitating the gathering and all are welcome. Contact her or the office for Zoom log-in info.

Send Pics of Your Beard or of You Wearing a Bow Tie for Sunday June 14th We often encourage people, men and women, to wear bow ties on Father's Day—we're asking you to send us pics of yourself in ties this year AND/OR a picture of your coronavirus beard! (Or an older picture of your best facial hair.) Email it to Pastor Bouman before June 12th. Thanks!

Zoom Coffee Hours: 1st Sunday of the Month, 10 am
The second virtual coffee hour on Mother's Day was successful! The breakout groups were especially fun, a chance to talk with smaller groups to whom you are randomly assigned. We've decided to have a monthly virtual coffee hour the first Sunday of the month through August. Dates are June 7th, July 5th, and August 2nd. Bible study will be suspended on these dates and coffee hour will start at 10:00 am. Two break-out groups will be part of each coffee hour, to give everyone a chance for smaller conversations with various people (you might call it Coffee Hour Speed Dating...).

News from Liz Mills, Executive Director

Greetings! As I write this in late May, we are still sheltering in place but hoping that our city and state will soon begin the reopening process. As you know, Carlson programming has been suspended since mid-March. But thankfully, some aspects of Carlson programming have resumed.

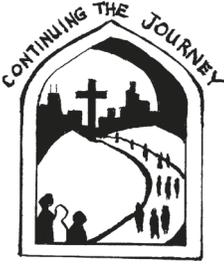
We've begun working in **Three Brothers Garden** again! Six cubic yards of organic soil have been delivered to the IPLC parking lot, and we've recruited crews of volunteers who are isolating together to distribute the soil to the garden's raised beds. Then we'll finally be able to plant the beds with vegetables for the Irving Park Food Pantry. With a two-fold increase in clients due to Covid-19, the food pantry needs fresh vegetables now more than ever. To keep us safe as we work in the garden, we are relying on the guidance of NeighborSpace, a Chicago organization that assists community gardens. A shout out to Garden Committee member **Pat Morin and her husband Greg** for installing soaker hoses at each raised bed. The irrigation system is set up to operate on timers and will improve water efficiency. If you'd like to volunteer in the garden, add your name to our mailing list at carlsoncommunityservices.org.

We were disappointed to cancel our April **Fine Arts** concert due to Covid-19, but delighted to offer a virtual concert instead -- **Bing's Dueling Pianos 2.0 challenge to Dan Gillogly**. Putting a twist on the traditional dueling pianos format, classical Bing challenged piano man Dan to add his flair to piano pieces performed first by Bing, and then by Dan. Their performances of selections from Bach, Beethoven and Debussy mustn't be missed! You'll find the video on Carlson Community Services' YouTube channel and on our Facebook page. Watch for another Fine Arts video this month.

After an abrupt end to our program year, we're staying in touch with families served by the **Magic After-School Place** and planning for the fall. We want to support our students and families in whatever way we can, whether that's through remote learning or with an in-person program. We'll be gathering with the MAP team over the summer to show them our appreciation for the incredible impact they had on MAP families and students this past school year.

At the April virtual meeting of Carlson's Board of Director's, we were delighted to elect **Jose Garcia** to the board. Jose is Assistant Branch Manager at the Mayfair Wintrust Bank branch and a resident of the West Walker neighborhood. He's excited to join the Board and Garden Committee.

To keep up to date on Carlson programs, follow us on Facebook or sign up for our newsletter at carlsoncommunityservices.org. Carlson Community Services is a non-profit serving the Irving Park community with programs that enrich lives through education, culture and service. For more information, visit carlsoncommunityservices.org or contact me at



T I D I N G S

From Irving Park Lutheran Church

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Address Service Requested

A Sweet Red Treat For You, in Honor of Pentecost On Pentecost Sunday (May 31 this year), we often throw flame colored candies, attached to streamers, from the balcony onto the worshippers below. We can't do that this year, but still wanted to send something sweet your way: the enclosed red candy. Special thanks to Office Administrator Sally for inserting them in this mailing!

Share Your Faith Reflection Each day a different member of our church shares a faith reflection, which is sent out by email at 4 pm. Many people have told us how much they look forward to these, and they are shared beyond our members as well. Please sign up to share your own reflection!

Summer Camp @ IPLC 2020 Suspended With much sadness, but with awareness of how uncertain things still are and how complicated and potentially dangerous, for students and staff, that it would be to run a camp while we continue to combat the coronavirus pandemic, the IPLC Learning Team decided not to hold Summer Camp @ IPLC this year. Our hearts go out to the families affected by this and by other changes in summer camps, which will be operating in greatly changed ways or not at all. We hope our camp can resume next year!

The Word in Season Daily Devotionals, July – Sept. Available We are happy to mail this booklet to your home, contact office@iplc.org to request one.

JUNE—Birthdays

1 Paul Helgeson
 3 Melinde Madsen
 3 Deann Sherlock
 4 Logan Nieves
 7 Kristin Kocolowski
 7 Dylan Konsbruck
 7 Ethan Stein
 8 Elmer Haneberg
 8 Colin Medaglia
 8 Judy Nelson
 8 Doris Peterson
 9 Guenter Grunst
 9 Ben Pulex
 15 Yazid Ebeid
 17 Arthur Davis
 17 Tristan Fitzgerald
 17 Haley Magaña
 18 Karen Frank
 18 Diana Romo
 21 Emily Wheeler
 22 Nathen Johnson
 22 Christopher Richard
 22 Judy Sviatko

JUNE—Birthdays

23 Dennis Holmquist
 25 Ruth Bouman
 25 Jill Hjelmgren
 25 Jason Siffing
 26 Briana Czajka
 26 Laura Gardner
 26 Lizzy Holub
 28 Abram Stumme
 29 David McKenzie

Anniversaries

6.1.96 Lee & Mitch Stein
 6.5.05 Kristina & Joey Crook
 6.5.14 Jessica & Eric Hublar
 6.5.92 Christine & Marty Popielewski
 6.5.66 Sandra & John Stumme
 6.18.60 Grace & Rich Wielock
 6.24 Luis & Natalia Nieves

Lectors & Assisting Ministers

7 Dee Kimpel, Sharon Iverson
 14 Clair Anderson, Timothy Bouman
 21 Holly Van Essen, David Hall
 28 Lee Stein, Zach Ryland