

TIDINGS

from Irving Park Lutheran Church

July 2020, The 47th Volume, chapter 7

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

Phone: 773.267.1666

Web site: www.iplc.org

Worship Online Sundays

Services sent via email and posted on Youtube, Face Book, and the church website

Holy Communion Services

with social distancing and face coverings, please RSVP with the church office.

Tuesdays at 6:00 pm

Saturday at 12:00 noon.

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Co-volunteer Sunday School

Coordinators

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

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Phil Bole

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

Racism and the People of God

As our city and nation continue to confront racism, various members offered reflections; two especially powerful ones are included below. We pray that God helps us to speak and act boldly for justice, and to work together with forbearance and respect. — Pastor Erin Bouman

What Do They Mean to You?

by Larry Kimpel

What do the names Laquan McDonald, Tamir Rice, Michael Garner, Breonna Taylor, Philando Castile, Alberta Spruill Travon Martin, Michael Brown, and George Floyd, mean to me?

To me, their names mean Black lives with unnecessarily tragic ends. Their names mean grief-stricken mothers and fathers. Some of the names mean children and babies left to grow up without knowing the love of their murdered parent. But all of their names mean that the senseless killing of my people happens over and over and over again in this country. It has become a part of us.

I moved from Chicago to Los Angeles just one month before the Rodney King LAPD beating took place in March of 1991. I was still living there when on April 29, 1992 the acquittals in the Rodney King case came down... and so did the city of L.A.

I witnessed my adopted city, my neighborhood and many areas of the country ablaze. Some businesses were burned, while others were vandalized and looted. Anger and frustration ruled the streets. Blatant systemic racism ran head-on into a people fed up with being abused by police and betrayed by the land that forced their ancestors to come here in chains as slave labor. It was the perfect storm.

That week a powder keg exploded on the streets of Los Angeles and during that time, I heard some television pundits say that “the system is broken”. But those pundits overlooked the fact that use of the word “broken” implies that the system was working properly for all people in the first place. The system is not “broken” for Black Americans. For Blacks in this country the system is “rigged” by design. Blacks are more likely to be pulled over by the police. Blacks get longer jail sentences than whites for similar crimes. And Blacks are shot and killed at the hands of the police far more often than that of any other racial makeup.

The world saw a brand new powder keg explode in real-time when on May 25, 2020 George Floyd, a 46-year-old black man, died in Minneapolis, Minnesota, after white police officer Derek Chauvin used his knee to apply his full body weight on Floyd's neck for almost nine minutes. Floyd was handcuffed lying face down on the street. Two other Minneapolis police officers knelt down on George Floyd's legs and back while still another officer aided and abetted the carnage by keeping horrified onlookers at bay. The black community has endured this type of police brutality for centuries. Except this time, a video of the incident was shared across social media worldwide. The narrative could not be controlled by the Minneapolis police department, city hall or the police union. This time, we were all witnesses to the crime.

Are all police officers murderers? Are all whites against black people? Hardly... But the culture of racism is so deeply woven into the fabric of this country that as a black man I cannot avoid seeing it play out (*reflecting continues next page*) on



a daily basis.

Jesus said that we are to “love our neighbor, as “ourselves.” But that particular admonishment seems to have fallen on deaf ears, especially when it comes to the treatment of Blacks in America.

Here is Strong's definition of "neighbor" in the original Greek:

- a) a friend
- b) any other person, and where two are concerned, the other (thy fellow man, thy neighbor), according to the Jews, any member of the Hebrew nation and commonwealth
- c) according to Christ, any other man or woman irrespective of nation or religion with whom we live or whom we chance to meet. That means that we are all neighbors no matter what we look like. No matter our gender, sexual orientation, economic status or religion.

I do see a glimmer of hope on the horizon for a new day, but racism will only begin its decline when each of us summons the courage to call out racial injustice wherever we see it occurring and vehemently denounce it. We must use our pen, our ballot, our influence, and our voices. When we each choose to do a better job of understanding one another; to not subscribe to racial stereotypes but rather, seek to give each individual that we meet the respect and compassion that they deserve as our neighbors... that is what The Son of Man wants for us all.

That is when I believe we shall finally overcome. To put it another way... “My character should be the Barometer; rather than my Blackness being your thermometer.”

So now you know what the names of Laquan McDonald, Tamir Rice, Michael Garner, Breonna Taylor, Philando Castile, Alberta Spruill Travon Martin, Michael Brown, George and Floyd, mean to me...

What do they mean to you?

Grappling With Racism

by Cindy Kuhn



As the adoptive white mother of a biracial child I have had a unique window into the complexities, absurdity, and plain evil of racism. I recall the grocery store worker who asked us every time she saw my daughter in the store, “where did she get that hair”

or strangers who would reach out and touch her hair without permission; the challenges as an adolescent of fitting in – too white or too black? The full spectrum of name calling from “Oreo” to N**r.” The fellow student who shouted “go back to Africa” (she was born in Belleville, IL – her maternal grandmother was the first black to own her own

home in that town). Some of it can be explained by the intersection of adoption and race – all of it can be explained by racism.

I was prepared for none of this. I couldn't explain it, and I couldn't protect my daughter from it. What I could do was educate myself and figure out how to be an ally. This is not a semester course...it's a life course, one that unfolds in different ways at different times. It challenged my assumptions, my understanding of history, uncloaked my own biases. I began to understand that slavery was unique in America because it was race-based; that many economic, management, law enforcement, judicial, housing and health care practices are steeped in racism, having taking root in slavery and the brutal Jim Crow era that followed; that of the 400+ years that people of African descent have been in this country, for only about 75 years has there been consistent efforts to address equal rights and treatment.

It's all such a far cry from what should be a joyful celebration of the goodness in God's diverse creation. And a heretical departure from the Christian vision of all equally united in the body of Christ.

Perhaps the most troubling thing I've learned is how I have benefited from this perversion of God's will for his creation. I honestly haven't figured out how to grapple with that. Except to know that I have a moral responsibility to be part of the solution.

Before we closed our church building, we were working on a series of roundtable discussions on race following the Adult Bible Study Group's exploration of “The Cross and the Lynching Tree.” I've been referring back to the resources and information we had gathered as a touchstone during the recent events in our country that has once again lay bare the racism and continued persistent racial inequities that disproportionately affect our African American brothers and sisters in Christ. I share them with you today and invite you to be the best ally possible.

Using Your White Privilege to Do Good, Teaching Tolerance

<https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/fall-2018/toolkit-for-what-is-white-privilege-really>

1. Don't take it personally or use discomfort as an excuse to disengage
2. Learn when to listen, when to amplify and when to speak up
3. Educate yourself
4. Educate fellow white people
5. Risk your unearned benefits to benefit others

The last sounds like grace to me. Grace which sets us free to serve others. Grace that demands justice.

Zoom Coffee Hour: July 5th, 10 am. As we celebrate Independence Day Weekend, join us for another virtual coffee hour. Bible study will be suspended this Sunday. Two break-out groups will be part of each coffee hour, to give everyone a chance for smaller conversations with various people. Pets welcome.

Online Worship + Small Group Holy Communion Services For the health and safety of all, we're still not having large group worship services in the sanctuary. A new online service of prayer, sermon, & music is emailed out every Sunday morning and available afterwards on the church website, Facebook page, and YouTube channel. We're also offering Holy Communion for small groups, at the church on Tuesdays at 6 pm or Saturdays at noon (Please RSVP with the office) or in your backyard (please set up a time with Pastor Bouman) This sacramental supplement to online worship is a tentative first step towards returning to in-person worship some time in the future.

Lutherans and Netflix The ELCA has found itself in the Netflix spotlight recently. The Netflix series *Sweet Magnolias*, written by ELCA member Sheryl Anderson, began streaming May 19 and features a fictional ELCA congregation. The main characters turn to their church for the community, grace and support that Lutherans can count on. Meanwhile, the Rev. Noah Hepler of Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Atonement appeared on season 5 of *Queer Eye*, with his congregation and his mindset getting a makeover from the Fab Five. Give these great Lutheran-featuring shows a watch!

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 study the Bible readings for the day, talk about current events, 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.

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, we have 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 that Summer Camp @ IPLC can resume next year!

Highlights from the June 8 2020 Council Meeting

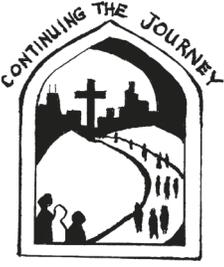
- Finances: expenses were greater than our income for May, there were three payroll periods that month, instead of the usual two.
- Due to concerns about Covid19, there will not be Summer Camp in 2020.
- Pastor Bouman and Nancy Hall attended a webinar regarding Stewardship during a difficult time and are considering working with a consultant this year, costs are within our budget
- The Synod has provided an extensive guide for reopening. When we do return to the sanctuary, we plan to also live stream the service.
- Pastor Bouman will be offering communion to small groups in the sanctuary, or you can ask her to come to your backyard. You need to make a reservation.
- There will be a Church Congregational meeting via Zoom June 14th
- For The Good of IPLC: Things highlighted this month included Pastor Bouman visiting the graduates, Sally and Phil and Melanie hand delivering some Tidings, the emergency food donations to the Pantry, and the Online Worship Services

Highlights from the Congregational Zoom Meeting June 14, 2020 – 42 in attendance.

- Pastor Bouman gave an update on church activities, including many and various Zoom gatherings, powerful and vulnerable discussions of race at a Council meeting and in the daily email reflections, and people's remarkable and ongoing generosity of time, talents, and treasure.
- Treasurer Bill Sherlock gave a financial update: the checkbook balance as of May 31, 2020 is \$57,500; Giving is 98.5% of budgeted amount and Expenses are 95% of budgeted amount, we've also received a PPP loan of \$36,535 from the SBA, which will not need to be repaid.
- Phil Bole described the motion to repair the parsonage and garage roof using BOCC for the cost of \$10,300, taking funds from Building Preservation. A vote was taken by a show of hands. The motion was approved by everyone present.
- Pastor Bouman shared some information about possible steps towards in person worship.

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.





T I D I N G S

From Irving Park Lutheran Church

3938 W. Belle Plaine Ave.

Chicago, IL 60618-1997

Address Service Requested

JULY—Birthdays

- 1 Amy Monday
- 2 Grady Petersen
- 3 Elena O'Grady
- 4 Kiera Gettings
- 6 Geovani Monroe
- 6 Lulu Neff
- 8 Faith Stein
- 9 Amelia Stumme
- 10 Aurea Flores
- 12 Arie Guillaume
- 15 Per-Hugo Kristensson
- 17 Sarah Clausen
- 17 Zach Ryland
- 19 Rick Reschke
- 20 Linnea McBride
- 20 Max Ward
- 21 Terri Hollis
- 24 Nancy Curtis
- 25 Margot Lurie
- 26 Sharon Iverson
- 27 Maleah Juarez
- 27 Isaac Sporrang
- 28 Ryan Carlson
- 28 Adam Guillaume
- 28 Ryne Petersen
- 28 Martin Popielewski
- 31 Kate Ward

Anniversaries

- 7.10.11 Kate & Dan Ward
- 7.15.17 Dee & Larry Kimpel
- 7.18.82 Melanie & Rick Reschke
- 7.20.08 Jane & Adam Niermann
- 7.10 Pat & Greg Morin

Lectors

- 7.5 Joanne Otte
- 7.12 Travis McBride
- 7.19 TBD
- 7.26 TBD

Assisting Ministers

- 7.5 Clair Anderson
- 7.12 Joanne Otte
- 7.19 Dee Kimpel
- 7.26 Sharon Iverson

