

TIDINGS

from Irving Park Lutheran Church

August 2020, The 47th Volume, chapter 8

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.

Sundays 10:30 am beginning Aug. 23

Most other activities at IPLC are meeting via Zoom.

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Coordinators

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Sara Anderson | 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

A Cold Summer

By Pastor Erin Bouman

It's the height of summer, and often very hot. In typical years, I get a little worried right about now, as worship attendance dips, sometimes rather dramatically. It can get pretty steamy in the sanctuary and there's also the way schedules are typically changed at this time of year: there's vacations, and there's no Choir or Sunday school. Patterns shift and there's less people in church. There have been summer Sundays in which I've looked out at a very sparsely filled sanctuary and thought: "Oh dear, what does this mean?"

This year, of course, has been anything but typical. Because of the coronavirus pandemic the sanctuary has been completely empty on Sunday mornings all summer as well as two months before. Perhaps at the end of this month we might get back in there. On August 23 we're tentatively planning to start gathering again early on the Lord's day—though not for a full worship service, rather for a simple, abbreviated, sacramental service, an opportunity to receive Holy Communion (which we had been offering Tuesdays & Saturdays.) After moving these sacramental services to Sundays, we'll eventually add other components to them (while still offering online worship and/or streaming options). But even those gatherings will be—will need to be—sparsely attended. All of which is to say that this summer I am also wondering, but with a level of concern I had never imagined before: "Oh dear, what does this mean?"

I read an article that said that early on a good number of people thought the pandemic would be like a snowstorm—a very fierce one, fierce enough to shut down schools, and put a stop to all travel, and have people stock up on supplies and hole up at home. As severe storms do, it would cause real damage, destruction and even death, but after an intense period of time it would end, and then we would shovel out.

That metaphor didn't seem to hold, though. We developed some ways of navigating while in the storm, but it just kept snowing. So then, the article said, some people were starting to think of it less like a snowstorm and more like a season—not something that lasted days or weeks, but months. It wasn't just a big blizzard, it was another winter.

I lived for ten years in Minnesota and winters there are very long, but they seem nothing compared to this. The winter of this pandemic has stretched on and on. It may literally be winter, it may be a new calendar year, before there is a vaccine. And even then, yet more months in, with all we'll have been through, all the changes in schedules and patterns of gathering, after not singing together as a group for so long, with families navigating different ways of learning, with many losing work or doing work in very different ways, one wonders what life will look like. I wonder what church will look like.

Perhaps, the article said, it's not just another winter, perhaps it's a new ice age. That sent shivers down my spine.

I don't know what all this means for us here at Irving Park Lutheran Church. I don't know what the next few months will hold, or the next year. I do believe that we are made for worship. I believe that deep in our DNA we have a sense that there is more to this world than what we see, there is something greater than ourselves, which gives us to grace to be greater than ourselves, and which connects and calls us to commune with others. Church, holy ritual, the wholeness we know in it and the whole we become when we gather for it, teaches and reminds us of that.

We may be entering a new, colder age. Our God is ageless. God has been our help in ages past and is our hope to come. God can warm the coldest of hearts. God's Spirit alights, like flame, on people, and creates a new community. That's how the church was born, and how it can continue, whatever the future holds.

AT IPLC

Moving Communion Services to Sunday & Expanding Participants We are tentatively planning on moving the small group Holy Communion services to Sunday mornings beginning August 23, and also further expanding the number of people who might participate, maintaining social distancing and other health guidelines. All of this is dependent upon what happens with case numbers in Chicago and what the Mayor deems is safe at that time. With this move we would continue to offer the online worship services. This would simply be a small step in the process of returning to in-person worship on Sunday mornings, with the Word portion of the service offered online and the Sacramental portion offered on-site (for those who are able to attend that part of the service. Some people may need to continue fasting from the sacrament for health or other reasons). Pastor is also happy to come to your backyard and share Holy Communion with you (and others you might invite) in a safe, socially distant manner; contact her to make an appointment.

Survey Seeking Your Input on Worship, Next Steps Be on the lookout for a survey that will be sent to all members in early August to get a sense of how people are participating in online worship and their thoughts about in-person worship. Your input will help us best serve the needs of our congregation.

Thank You for Your Generosity! We are amazed and moved by the ongoing support of so many people in our church in these challenging times. As financial and other insecurities continue in our world, our current giving is 98% of the amount we had budgeted for this year. Of course, that budget was made months before the coronavirus began its march around the globe. Moreover, the amount of offering we've received for the first six months of 2020 (\$156,200) is only \$200 less than the amount that we received in the first months of 2019 (\$156,400). It is true that in the past seven years, giving to IPLC has significantly increased each year, but in the midst of a pandemic, with employment situations radically changed or lost, with worship services being held online, it is nothing short of miraculous to be so financially steady. Your continued support helps us continue to be the church. Thank you!

Thank you for Supporting the Crook Family When we set up a Meal Ministry for the Crook family, who are recovering from a serious and further-isolating motorcycle accident, numerous individuals quickly signed up to deliver meals and/or groceries to the Crook's home for almost all of July. They are SO appreciative. Thank you for the way you are supporting this family, and so many other people who are having an especially hard time right now.

Zoom Coffee Hour: August 2nd, 10 am. People have expressed that they especially enjoy it when the larger Zoom meeting becomes smaller groups - so we're going to do 3 Breakout Room Sessions this time, each 15 minutes long. It's a great chance to hear and share how friends from church are doing and to stay connected even as we are physically separated. Hope to see you!

CARLSON COMMUNITY SERVICES

Carlson Community Services is the non-profit that was started by members of IPLC in 2006. The church partners with Carlson on an after-school program, community garden and concert series. The church provides free programming space and church members serve on our board and committee members as well as volunteering at programs and events. Here's an update on what's been happening at Carlson this summer.

Three Brothers Garden is growing again! After a year-long hiatus, the garden was planted in the spring and the first harvest was held in mid-July with the vegetables that were harvested going to the Irving Park Food Pantry. We'll be opening the harvests to volunteers via SignUp Genius in the coming weeks. If you'd like to receive notice about the harvests, sign up for our newsletter at www.carlsoncommunityservices.org.

The Magic After-School Place is eagerly awaiting a final determination from Chicago Public Schools about what school will look like in the fall. We've designed four different programs, depending upon what CPS decides to do. We are keeping staff and student safety at the top of our decision-making. Program Director Rachel Lockhart married Brian Park on July 19th. We wish Rachel and Brian a lifetime of happiness!

Irving Park Fine Arts Committee is unable to present our usual concert fare given Covid-19 limits on gathering. We hope to be back in the church sanctuary soon, and in the meantime, we're working with Bing to present virtual concerts. Check out Carlson's YouTube channel for a video featuring Bing and Dan Gillogly in a piano duel!

As always, thank you for supporting Carlson and our mission. Be safe and be well.

Liz Mills
Executive Director
Carlson Community Services

First harvest at Three Brothers Garden with Sara Anderson and Jose Garcia.



HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

Last month we focused on three events that were chronicled in the Christmas 1918 edition of Forsamlings-Bladet (the predecessor of the Tidings), the last edition before publication resumed 21 months later in October 1920. Today we're fast-forwarding to October 1920, when members of the congregation were asked to subscribe to the newsletter rather than having the church solicit ads from local businesses.

Saturday, Sept. 11, 1920

Church members Folke Goranson and Myrtle Carlson were united in marriage in what the newsletter described as one of the "prettiest weddings" the church had ever seen. A complete review of the wedding made its way into the Forsamlings-Bladet. After the ceremony, about 100 attendees were served in the dining hall of the Parish House, which we believe was our current day "Victory Hall." Pastor Joshua Oden served as the toastmaster at the reception, and Clara Lindquist and George Carlson provided musical entertainment.

The writer of the wedding review noted the gifts "were many and valuable."

Sunday, Oct. 3, 1920

IPLC was packed to celebrate what was billed as "the biggest Rally Day in the history of our church." The church reported 475 members of the Sunday Bible School attended the event. A special offering was collected for the China Missions, and it resulted in a donation of \$115.

Yes, of course, there was a parade that originated in the "Parish House" and ended in the church auditorium, with each department carrying its banner and singing an appropriate song. The Church Board of Education (aka the

teachers) sang, "A Mighty Fortress is our God" in Swedish! The highlight of the Rally Day was an address given by Miss Woodbridge, a missionary to China who was born to missionary parents and raised in China. She was studying in the United States and was eager to return to China to "carry on the work of the Master among this heathenish people."

Items "Of Interest" in 1920

The church was gearing up for the annual Congregational Meeting on Thursday, Oct. 21. Back in the day, the annual meeting wasn't always held on a Sunday. ... IPLC was going to host a lecture by "Dr. Cornwall" on the subject of "Paul and Luther" on Tuesday, Nov. 2. ... Prayers were offered for congregation members Rudolph Anderson and "Mrs. Erik Wallen." Both apparently had been ill for "a long time." Given that the newsletter came out at the end of the Flu Pandemic, perhaps they had been battling the virus. ... Church member Julius Fagerberg suffered a broken arm when a car struck him as he exited a "Crawford Avenue street car," aka a bus on Pulaski. ... The Confirmation Class had 40 members. It met on Friday evenings at 7. ... The first church telephone was installed. The number was "Irving 6173." For any youngsters reading this, yes, that was long before you had to dial an Area Code. ... Pastor Oden had a tempting theme to his four sermons in November: "The Temptations of a Physician" on Nov. 7, followed by "The Temptations of a Lawyer" on Nov. 14, "The Temptations of a Businessman" on Nov. 21 and "The Temptations of a Church Member" on Nov. 28. There was no mention that the Temptations would be a great name for a group of soulful singers.

— *Ralph Greenslade*

HIGHLIGHTS OF JULY IPLC ZOOM COUNCIL MEETING

- August Council Meeting will be moved to Monday, 8/17.
- Financial Picture: Giving remains steady, though income from Gym & Hall Use, which has been helping us balance the budget, has disappeared. Offerings for the first six months this year and last were almost exactly the same:
 - End of June, 2019—offerings were \$156,400
 - End of June, 2020—offerings were \$156,200
- Thank you to everyone for support of the Crook family
- The Daily Reflections, much appreciated at the beginning of quarantine, may have become overwhelming, now going to be shared weekly.
- We're planning to move the small group communion services from Tuesdays & Saturdays to Sunday mornings, 10:30 am, beginning August 23, allowing 25-50 people.
- Some small groups may return to the gym, must follow City & IHSA Guideline for Health & Fitness Centers and youth sports, according to the Phase we are in
- For the good of IPLC/Positive Things Noted this Month: Generous Giving, Online services, Zoom Coffee hours, Zoom Bible studies, Reaching out to others





T I D I N G S

From Irving Park Lutheran Church

3938 W. Belle Plaine Ave.

Chicago, IL 60618-1997

Address Service Requested

Anniversaries

- 8.3 Debra & Corey Wojtkiewicz
- 8.5 Nels & Valerie Wadycki
- 8.6 Kyle & Debra Rogers
- 8.7 Phil & Roberta Bole
- 8.19 Andy & Kristen Holub
- 8.21 Roger Bingham & Chris Richard
- 8.22 Tim & Erin Bouman
- 8.24 Paul & Ruth Clausen

Lectors

- 8.2 Sally Burke
- 8.9 Ralph Greenslade
- 8.16 Dee Kimpel
- 8.23 Nancy Hall
- 8.30 Joanne Otte

Assisting Ministers

- 8.2 Bruce Anderson
- 8.9 Heidi Lundquist
- 8.16 Amy Monday
- 8.23 Joanne Otte
- 8.30 Garret Fitzgerald

AUGUST—Birthdays

- 1 Gabriel Neff
- 2 Alice Sherlock
- 2 Darcie Wadycki
- 5 Robert Driskill Jr.
- 7 Camila Pulex
- 8 Niko LeBlanc
- 11 John Frank
- 14 Kathleen Cumbee
- 14 Meagan Sherman-Sporrong
- 15 Robin Duray
- 16 Kyle DeMarrias
- 17 Mike Duray
- 17 Emma Simon
- 17 Lynn Vickers
- 18 Eloise Sporrong
- 20 Amanda Joy Driskill
- 21 Gunner Wojtkiewicz
- 22 Sterling Kotche
- 25 Jesslyn Bowers
- 25 Bobby Reitor
- 26 Dee Kimpel
- 27 Molly Ward
- 31 Jessica Bacoulis
- 31 Ralph Greenslade

