



May, 2020

Dear Sisters & Brothers in Christ,

Happy Easter! As we continue in this season of Easter, we remember the promise of new life given to us through our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ. This past month has been challenging as we all learn what sheltering in place means for us and our families. The news and social media have kept in front of us the daunting daily number/cases of those who have contracted the illness as well as deaths. While too many have lost their battle to the Corona Virus, we hold on to the promise of new life given to us on Easter Morning as a sign of hope.

We anxiously wait for the news letting us gather once again with our community of faith in our sanctuary, with our families, friends, coworkers, and communities. I am afraid though to do safely in our area will not be for some time yet.

However, in the meantime, we continue to be the church as we continue to spread the word of God. While worship is on Zoom, we have been able to increase spreading God's word of hope, healing and love to those beyond the walls of our sanctuary. We continue to serve those in need through the Food Pantry. We continue to be the church reaching out to you, our beloved members, through phone calls from myself and from council members and I know others are making calls to one another as well. Monica continues to be in the office answering phone calls and other tasks. Ann has been cleaning endlessly. Sue has been recording the hymns for our worship services. Jamie and the Sunday School teachers continue to reach out to our young members, with Sunday School each week. Barbara and others are tending to the financial duties of the congregation, and on behalf of myself and council, we thank you, the members of the congregation for your continued unwavering faith and support of the ministries at Jordan with your financial contributions.

These are but a few of the ministries that continue (as there are others happening too) even though we might not see people in action around the church building. You and I are called to BE the church beyond the four walls and campus of our church building/sanctuary. So, during this pandemic, while our church doors may be closed, we continue to BE the church of our risen Christ!

Until we can physically gather once again, hold on to the promise of the Good News of Christ, That Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia! May you be of good courage, remain healthy physically, emotionally and spiritually. And May God be with you each and every day!

**CELEBRATING
GOD
CONNECTING
PEOPLE**

Missing you all! God's Peace!
Pastor Dody

Dear Members of Jordan Lutheran Church,
I wanted to thank all of you for your prayers for my daughter, Kim Ward Walter. Kim was in a high risk twin pregnancy with a 50/50 chance of birth. She was admitted to the hospital in Georgia where she lives with her husband, Dan, at 24 weeks. She remained in the hospital for two months and the twins were delivered at 32 weeks by C-section. They have been in the NICU for a month and last Friday, at 26 weeks, they were sent home. The boys, Allister James and Carlyle Friederich, are each about 5 lbs. now and are doing very well. Parents at this point are exhausted. The pregnancy, delivery and now the covid-19 has not been close to a normal entrance into life. But I am totally convinced it wouldn't have happened had we not had all of your thoughts and prayers. For that I am forever grateful. Please stay home and stay safe and thank you all again.

Sincerely,
Cindy Ward & family

Dear Pr. Dody & members of Jordan,
Loretta and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the many cards – for holidays, birthdays, get-well, etc. We can't thank you enough for your kindness.
This has been a trying time for this year so far. Late in January and for several months I was hospitalized twice for surgery at the Lebanon Hospital, and then to a rehab facility nearby named SpanCrest, which is sponsored by Lutheran Churches in Lebanon.
When I finally came home, several ladies, nurses, and others came to our home for more rehab, and even sometimes for a bath. But this has stopped now. I'm doing better now, especially my walking. I had been using a walker. Now sometimes I use a cane, but in the house I walk without those appliances.
So life goes on. I recently turned 87 years young. Loretta will be 86 in August.
So, again we thank you and hope you have a blessed life day by day.

Sincerely,
Pastor Hein & Loretta

*A joyful heart is good medicine,
but a crushed spirit dries
up the bones.
Prov 17:22*

Helpful Things to Know:

- The office is still open Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 12:00 noon, to take your phone calls, drop off your offering envelopes, etc. Every effort will be made to keep contact to a minimum.
- Please see our website and Facebook pages to keep up to date with Sunday School. There will be a live stream on Sunday at 9:15 a.m. for the younger classes, and there is a ZOOM link on the website (you will also receive invite by email) for the Confirmation class students.

We send our gratitude to those who continue to faithfully make their offerings so that we may be ready, unafraid and able to return to regular ministry when life gets back to normal!

Jordan is pleased to offer electronic giving options to our members. Members can make a one-time donation, or establish a recurring giving profile through the convenience of their computer or mobile phone. We highly recommend that at this time you prayerfully consider using online giving.

Here is how you sign up:

WEBSITE – go to www.jordanlutheran.org click on the **SUPPORT** tab, then **Electronic Giving** and you will be offered two options to set up your electronic giving

GIVE+ PLUS (a free, secure phone app) download this free app to your mobile phone, search by zip code 18069 and when you see Jordan, follow the instructions to make your donation.

The applications are part of the Vanco family of products, handling payment processing since 1998, hosting over 20,000 churches, and conforming to the latest Payment Card Industry Data Security Standards. Members using Simply Giving are already familiar with the convenience of online giving.
Of course you may continue making your offering via US mail or drop off (safely) in person at the office on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday.

If anyone is interested in sending a card to Doug Fay who continues to fight the battle to recover from the Corona virus may do so at:

Douglas Fay
Lehigh Valley Hospital
ICU
1200 S Cedar Crest Blvd
Allentown PA 18103

Doug continues each day to improve but has a ways to go to strengthen his lungs and body. Please continue to send prayers.

What's been going with our Jordan members during the pandemic?

Our members have been keeping busy, finding ways to help during these unusual times:

- Our food pantry has been continuing to serve the local community on its regular schedule. Extra precautions are being taken for the sake of both the volunteers and the clients, but food IS being distributed!
- Jamie Edelman, our Director of Christian Education, has been busy sewing masks for family, friends and co-workers, and so far has made more than 100+ masks!
- Jordan member Jamie Sandrock, a pediatric RN and a traveling nurse, is on her way to administer to the people on an Indian reservation in Arizona. Jamie's family asks for your prayers for her health and safety and that of the residents.
 - Our Church Council has made phone calls to every member they can reach through our photo directory, just to touch base and offer assistance, keeping the lines of communication open.
- We have a team of volunteers who will run errands or help wherever possible for those who are confined to their homes or have other needs. Contact the church office.
 - Our Prayer Shawl Group has been busy crocheting bands to be worn by medical workers at the back of their heads where they can fasten the elastic from their masks and have less discomfort on their ears. If you would like to help with this from home, please contact the church office. There is a great need!
 - Our Outreach Group has continued to send cards to our sick and shut-ins on their birthdays. This outreach is always welcome, but even more especially right now! Your donations of postage stamps is always appreciated.
 - Erin and Tammy Klotz have been instrumental in getting the Sunday worship services on Zoom and widely available to everyone.
We've even had check-ins from folks in other states!
 - Rachael Hendricks has completed the requirements for her DMA (Doctor of Musical Arts) at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati.
Congratulations!

*In compliance with the COVID-19 guidelines to remain at home when possible, **no services will be held in the sanctuary until further notice.** We hope you will continue to join us on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. for live streaming of our worship services – check for the links in your email, the website, or on Facebook. You may also see the recorded worship service and past services on both Facebook and the webpage at any time.*

A Note from our Organist...

It is an understatement to say we are now living in unusual, unprecedented times. Our usual schedules have been altered to accommodate the “new normal”, a term I intensely dislike. Trips to the grocery store and other businesses that have remained open require a face mask and physical distancing. Visits with family and friends, whether in homes or other gathering places, have been put on hold; it is especially difficult when loved ones are hospitalized and support is limited to phone calls or text messages. Teachers are offering virtual classes, both in the school systems and collegiate levels. Proms and graduation ceremonies, wonderful celebrations of accomplishment, have been postponed or cancelled.

However, in these difficult times, we also have much for which to be thankful. Most of us have remained healthy by distancing and remaining at home. We have the opportunity to pay attention to home activities that have been put on the back burner. Experimenting with cooking and baking has yielded some remarkable results. Some people have decided to embrace this time for self-improvement. And, one of the things I’ve done is plan for the future.

I’m very grateful that we have worship services available on Zoom. Yes, it is not the same as being at worship in our beautiful sanctuary, but it enables us to worship as a community of believers. I miss our wonderful group of volunteers who share their gift of music in worship leadership and hearing the congregation sing the hymns and responses. I look forward to the time when we can gather once again.

Some of you may remember the song *Sundays Will Never Be the Same*, recorded by Spanky and Our Gang in 1967. Well, after this pandemic is over, Sundays will never be the same. I’m confident that, guided by God, we will be renewed and embrace our faith as resurrection people.

-Sue Hartney

From our Sexton...

I’ve been making good use of this time while the building has been empty. I’ve done the spring shampooing of the Family Center and Memory Room carpets, removed old wax/ re-waxed the floors in the office area, middle level, elevator and stair well landings. I am currently working on the Family Center kitchen floors. The Memory Room and Sanctuary have been washed down and sanitized. We all hope things will be back to normal soon!

-Ann Kline

From the Secretary...

I am thankful to be working three half-days per week, it gives me some small sense of normalcy. I am here on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays to take your calls or for you to safely drop off/pick up whatever is needed.

I am just a phone call away to answer any questions you might have or to get you in touch with whatever/ whoever you might need. Please leave a message during the hours I am not in, or you can contact Pr. Dody if there is an emergency.

I am so touched and grateful for the many calls, emails, texts and notes I have received from members just checking to see if I and my family are well. Your care and concern always warms my heart!

Meanwhile, I will continue to pray for those who are affected in so many ways, whether it is physical health, mental health, or economically, by this pandemic.

I miss you all and can’t wait till we are back to normal!

-Monica Unangst

Bible Study – Please join me beginning on **May 6th Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m.** as we gather to do a Bible Study on Zoom. We are going to try and see how this works as we look at the Pauls' first letter to Peter during the month of May (or how long it takes). Please email me at prdody@gmail.com to let me know of your interest. I will then send you the link to zoom to be able to attend. Please contact me no later than 6 p.m. on Wednesday in order for me to send the info.

Virtual Office hours for Pastor Dody during May will be on Tuesday mornings 10 a.m. – noon. Please use the following link to access the waiting room. I will let you into my virtual office, if I am not meeting with someone else. Of course, you can also, also call me, email or text me as well! Jordan Lutheran Church is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86114553791?pwd=ZERVdnBvU0Q3dTRPRXc4WUIKOWxldz09>

Meeting ID: 861 1455 3791

Password: 356857

Council Highlights – April 14, 2020

March 12, 2020 minutes approved.

Correspondence: Letter received for rental property requesting to revert rent back to 2019 fees due to lack of income and Coronavirus situation. Council approved 2020 rent be same as 2019 thru year end. **MSP**

Pastor's Report: (verbal)

- Requested Ann clean down sanctuary.
- Melissa Ann Frantz requested Letter of Transfer to St. Paul's Lutheran, Orwigsburg **MSP**
- Caring for 6 grieving families two funerals held, phone calls to members
- Zoom account opened for church meetings

Chris Ed Director: (via pastor)

- Sunday School/confirmation continues on zoom
- VBS reviewing and discerning ability to hold it

Worship & Music – no report. Scheduled to meet May 12th.

- Shirley will check with township contract for park if we would need to cancel.

Property – Kevin reported all safety locks are completed on Sunday School doors

- Mulching week of April 20th
- Seal brick coat on steeple postponed waiting to see reading finances

Outreach – cards continue to be sent to members.

- Council members making 2nd round of calls to check in with members.

Family Center – no report

Safety Awareness Team – waiting for company to reopen to obtain the lock set for front sanctuary door.

Treasurer/Finance – applied for the Payroll Protection Program. Waiting for approval.

- E-giving options on Jordan's website, including phone app (Giving Plus⁺)
- Balance for March 2020 was a deficit (\$1,066.00) and YTD was a surplus \$1,077.00. Greatly appreciative to all who continue to send in their offerings! (Approved).

Next regular council meeting Thursday, May 14th, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. All council meetings are an open meeting and members are invited to attend.

Upcoming NEPA Youth Events:

May 17. STAY May Play Day. May Play Day may have been canceled, but a "STAY May Play Day" is in the works. The Youth, Young Adult, and Family Ministry Team is working closely with Bear Creek Camp to develop this day of camp fun and synod engagement. Prepare for an online experience throughout the afternoon of Sunday, May 17. Follow [Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the ELCA](#), [NEPS - Youth, Young Adult, and Family Ministry Team](#), and [Bear Creek Camp](#) on Facebook at these links for additional updates and to participate in activities with others when the day arrives.

September 19. Youth Fest 2020. Youth Fest is back this Fall at Union Lutheran in Schnecksville on Saturday, September 19.

The theme for the year will be Accepted: God's, the acceptance that matters. The planning team for this event is hoping to offer even more wonderful breakout sessions than last year. For more information, please contact Jamie or Pr. Dody

or visit <http://nepasynod.org/event/youth-fest-2020/>.

Christian Education & Youth News

Jamie Edelman ~ christianedu.jordanlutheran@verizon.net ~ 610-395-5912

Here's what's happening in Christian Education at Jordan during the Covid-19 Pandemic:

- **Sunday School takes place live via Zoom each Sunday at 9:15 a.m.**
 - Each week you can join in and see and talk to your friends, hear the Bible story and participate in the craft. Needed craft supplies are posted online and sent home via email.
 - The Zoom information you need is:
[Meeting Link](#)
Meeting ID: 819 2828 8733
Password: 1DhHK7
This link, ID & password is for all Sunday School sessions through June.
- **Confirmation**
 - Classes take place online via Zoom on Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. Mrs. Peters sends out the Zoom link each week via email.
 - **Confirmation Day** – Confirmation is not likely to happen on Pentecost, May 31st, however, it will happen! Once we are back to a more normal Sunday morning routine, a date for Confirmation will be decided upon.
- **Egg Hunt Update**
 - It is our intention to hold the Egg Hunt once we are able to gather together again. If you signed up to donate candy, donations can be dropped off at church in a contact free manner anytime.
- **VBS**
 - We are currently evaluating our options for VBS this year. We are looking at online options and resources. We hope to have more information in the next week or so. Watch for information to arrive in your inbox and to be posted on the website.

