

# Central Thoughts

Volume 36 - Issue 6  
June/July 2020

**Central Lutheran Church**  
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**2702 Rockefeller Avenue, Everett, WA 98201**

A Message from the Pastor

**DATESTO  
REMEMBER:**  
**May 31st—Day of  
Pentecost**  
**June 7th—The Holy  
Trinity**

[ **Council Meeting** ]  
C A N C E L E D

[ **Quilting** ]  
C A N C E L E D

[ **Community Dinner** ]

\*PENDING; subject to  
cancelation

## Circles

All circles are  
C A N C E L E D

The COVID-19 pandemic is a deafening, dumbfounding, devastating rip in the fabric of time. Other generations that will live through COVID-19 may define it differently, because cataclysms are ever and always qualified on a sliding scale. But I have no doubt that for us Generation Xers, our development and outlook to this point in history cannot be discussed outside the context of three critical events: the fall of the Berlin Wall, 9/11, and COVID-19. (Before the last of us Xers is pushing up daisies, there will be more, of course; but for now, let me fantasize about having just the three, because just considering the possibilities for #4 makes me twitchy.)

We are at this point reconsidering T.S. Eliot's observation that "This is the way the world ends / not with a bang but with a whimper." So far as the spectrum of sounds are concerned, Eliot did not offer us was a third option, that a complete breakdown of structure and communication may also come in the echoes of resounding, unstoppable, excruciating coughs. We can scarcely hear a thing above the disorienting distortion. None of us at this point is in denial that COVID-19 has brought us to a dead stop.

This reality is too painful for the world to accept. Our mortality always has been.

Instead, COVID-19 is turned into a morality play between the forces of evil and the forces of good. The forces of evil are quite conveniently led by a bloated, incompetent, megalomaniacal demagogue – OR, a corrupt, deceptive, opportunistic Communist state, depending upon one's political leanings. The forces of good? These reflect our political leanings as well, though our representatives of choice tend to have at least one characteristic in common: carrying big sticks and speaking not so softly.

And yet, living by faith means we are never shocked by the calamities of this world.  
When we say, "This should not happen," we say, "God is absent."  
When we say, "These people are evil," we say, "I am righteous."  
When we say, "I fear this situation or those people," we say, "I do not fear God."

Our illusions take on a deceptively subtle form: we convince ourselves that things must be reassembled, put back together, made right. The past needs to be restored to its initial condition. The world must look like February 15, not June 15. This is because the world, since time immemorial, and in every single civilization since the dawn of time, has held to the belief that time is cyclical.

We prefer to live by an endlessly-repeating calendar over the seasons and on through the centuries. Life is far more comforting when it is predictable, after all. And so we

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keep ourselves busy in pursuit of the assurance that the seasons will progress, time marches on, and we the living and the dying continue along the pattern that reassures us and comforts us that life has always been thus and will always be thus. Same song, next verse.

The sun will rise in the east and set in the west; humans will live and then marry and then die; women will give birth; generations will endure. The reverb echoes over and over again through the ages.

And then, God speaks – not, I need to be clear, by initiating calamity – but by speaking to us in the midst of those horrific acts of nature and of humanity that strip away life. God does not need to kill untold numbers of people – or even just one person – to get our attention. As carbon-based life forms, we are all sentenced to death anyway. And because our natural minds will never accept our own mortality, it would be senseless for God to precipitate death preemptively through a medium that every cell in our body leads us to reject.

Where this world sows death, God sows life. Perhaps that knowledge is what enables us to identify linings of stunning beauty and harmony amid the cacophony. Above all, living in faith means passing through every chorus of apprehension identifiable, verse after verse. Insecurity. Cynicism. Fear. Doubt. Anxiety. Self-righteousness. Pride. Self-justification. Apathy. Selfishness.

Having circumvented all of the alternatives, we collapse, exhausted, in the only thing that is left: a molten core of unfettered, self-giving love. Everything else is just noise.



June 2020  
Pastor Jeremy Fuerst

Sunday Worship Services during June  
will be online via Zoom;

**[https://zoom.us/](https://zoom.us/j/595273296)**

**[j/595273296](https://zoom.us/j/595273296)**

**starting 9:45am.**

**Bible study** meets at noon on Wednesdays.

The link is <https://zoom.us/j/346299474>.

Here is our schedule for June. Interest pending, we may just continue having Bible Study through much of the summer. Hit up Pastor Jeremy if you would like to see it continue.

June 3—Zephaniah & Haggai

June 10—Zechariah

June 17—Malachi



### **Did you know...**

You can give online now!

And it is so ridiculously simple, you can do it in under a minute.

- 1) Go to [www.centrallutheraneverett.com](http://www.centrallutheraneverett.com).
- 2) Click on “Online Giving—Click Here to donate.”
- 3) You can create a profile for ongoing use, or not.
- 4) You can establish a recurring offering (weekly, monthly, etc.)

*We have gone to great lengths to be sure we found the most secure and user-friendly method possible.*

*Thank you for your commitment to Central’s ministry!*



## A Message from the Bishop

### From The Spirit, June 2020 edition

Dear Beloveds of Northwest Washington Synod,

*By the rivers of Babylon – there we sat down and there we wept when we remembered Zion. Psalm 137*

When the people were exiled in Babylon, they grieved for what they once had. The practices and comfort of what they'd known through worshiping at the temple in Jerusalem were not available to them in that foreign land. In that time of exile, they were challenged by prophets and re-formed as God's people. When they returned to Jerusalem, the temple they longed to gather in did not exist anymore. Their homes were gone. Much had to be rebuilt.

This scripture speaks of our time right now.

Truthfully, we are not going to go back to what we had before. And I am grieving this as I am sure you are. The verse from Psalm 137 speaks so clearly to me as we all weep for what was. The longing to be with all of you continues and I hope for the day when we can gather bodily again.

But let me also say this: While we long for what was, we also are living now. We are in worship now. We are in community now. Yes, it feels different. Yes, it is not the same. But rostered ministers are preaching God's word, people are gathering together, the gospel of Jesus Christ is being proclaimed and prayers, singing, community and fellowship have never stopped. As a faithful people, we trust that God is with us, even in this time that we are physically separated and we are still Holy Community – joined together by Jesus.

As your rostered minister and your leadership teams begin to make plans for re-opening church buildings, please keep in mind safety, vulnerable populations, and guidelines issued. I highly recommend listening to this online presentation hosted by the ELCA Minneapolis Area Synod in which Dr. Michael Osterholm, a Lutheran, an epidemiologist and the Director of the University of Minnesota Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy, presented and answered questions about COVID-19.

I also strongly urge congregations and ministry sites to follow the guidelines of the CDC, the state, and each local municipality as well as recommendation from the ELCA the synod. (You can find links at [www.lutheransnw.org/covid-19](http://www.lutheransnw.org/covid-19).) When we all follow these guidelines, we all benefit. Remember to be in conversation with your insurance provider about their recommendations for the use of your facility. Many insurance carriers are refusing to cover churches if they are going against state or local recommendations. *Please know that the Northwest Washington Synod highly recommends following CDC, Washington state, and local guidelines as well as the guidelines set out by this synod and the ELCA.*

I close this letter with another Psalm. While we hear the despair in Psalm 137 above, we also hear the hope in Psalm 121: *I lift up my eyes to the hills - from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.*

Dear people of God, remember that we are people of faith, trusting in God's grace and providence, informed by science, who desire to respect, protect, and care for the most vulnerable among us.

Take care. Be safe. Trust in God. Be community for one another.

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee



## *Faith and Everyday Life*

### **June 2020**

Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' (Luke 15:4-6) Let's back up a chapter. Jesus has been talking to the scribes and Pharisees, who criticized Jesus for receiving and eating with sinners. How interesting that sinners were drawn to Jesus, and were comfortable in his presence. In the above parable, there is no criticism of the one who became lost, no chiding of a sheep whose own foolish choice may have caused the disconnect from its shepherd. The focus and clear emphasis is on the determination of the shepherd to find even one that becomes lost. Jesus said elsewhere, "If you have seen me, you have seen the Father." What a Father, who is so devoted to his creation that he cares that not even one be lost. Consider that whatever lost-ness you may have experienced, whether in the past or right now, the heart of the Father is pursuit and finding. It is not a calloused, flippant attitude. Nor is it shaming. Once found, the shepherd is ecstatic and calls his friends and neighbors to share his joy. Connection is restored. As image-bearers of our Father, this longing for deep connection and restoration is in us also. What a Great Shepherd who cares for the many and the one!

### **July 2020**

July Luke 12:22-34 Our lives give us plenty to worry about. Sometimes we worry about whether we have enough, or whether there will be enough to get us through to the next paycheck. Other times we worry about whether we are good enough, whether we measure up, whether we are valued by others. We worry about our children -- about their future, about their wellbeing -- no matter their age. We worry about our country, our church, where we are headed. In this Scripture, Jesus gives us the antidote to our worry. He assures us that we are of great value to God. If God values us, we can be assured that we measure up. If God values us, we needn't worry whether other people do. And because God values us, God will provide us with everything we need. We don't need to worry about whether we will have enough. Jesus encourages us not to worry, reminding us that we can't add a single hour to our life by doing so. Every minute we spend worrying about the future or dwelling on the past is a minute we miss living our lives in the here and now. Jesus encourages us to give our worries to God, and instead invest our time and energy in striving for God's kingdom. When we do this, we can put our worries aside, because we know God is in charge and we aren't. This is the greatest comfort of all.

Written by a staff member  
of Lutheran Counseling Network

Mission of the Month, June/July 2020**Church of the Steadfast Love**

The Church of Steadfast Love is a chapel that operates inside the Compass Center in Pioneer Square. It is open to all who wish to visit and attend services, and no guests or residents of Compass Housing Alliance are required to attend.

That which unites us is the Word of God, a Word that convicts us all and drives us to our knees, when we are honest with ourselves about who we are and what we need.

God has created us to be in community. Jesus calls us to love God with all our hearts, souls, strength and minds and our neighbors as ourselves. Come, meet, know, and love your neighbors. We are all one in Christ. Thanks be.



Lutheran World Relief

**75,000 Face Mask Challenge!**

Around the world, we've seen that COVID-19 has affected every single country where Lutheran World Relief works. Health systems are still largely under-prepared. Communities are in danger. Families are at risk. But our love can protect families around the world! That's why we are issuing a challenge: we want to collect 75,000 face masks to send out with shipments of personal care kits to communities in need around the world. We want you to be a part of it! To take part in the challenge, visit [lwr.org/masks](http://lwr.org/masks) to pledge face masks to add to our overall goal of 75,000. On that page, you'll also find step-by-step instructions on how to make a face mask (although we know many of you already know how), as well as instructions on how to package and ship masks to our warehouses.

THANK YOU for all that you are already doing to protect people from COVID-19. We here at LWR headquarters have been so inspired to see you all put your faith into action on behalf of your neighbors in need. We hope you will join us in this mission of hope.

Please feel free to share this post with your congregations and anyone else you think might be interested in participating. If you have any questions, drop them in the comments and we will answer.

Rich Mathes  
Seattle LWR Ingathering Key Leader





### Remember Our Homebound in Your Prayers

The following persons are unable to worship with us on a regular basis.

Please include them in your prayers.

Phyllis Norlie at Josephine; @home or adult home residences: Sarajane Petersen, Linda Slater, and Sheryn Todd

Please contact the church office if you would like to be included or add a name to this list.

### Remember Our Military Members in Your Prayers

Jacob Shimmin—U.S. Navy

### Remember Our College Students in Your Prayers

Holden Fox—Lewis and Clark College (Portland, OR)

Kayla Barnes—Everett Community College

Malcolm Fox — Trinity University (Texas)



## Recovery

We are not sure if this will happen in June.  
Please stay tuned!

## Café

On every 3rd Friday of the month, volunteers deliver main dish, salad, side, and dessert to be served at Recovery Café at Everett United Church of Christ (2624 Rockefeller Ave.)

There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Your participation would be highly appreciated!

♥ Interested? there is a sign-up sheet at the church entrance.

♥ Question? Please contact Kathy Trosvig at (425) 231-7070

### Newsletter Submission Cutoff

for the August Issue is **Friday, July 24th**

[centralluthoffice@gmail.com](mailto:centralluthoffice@gmail.com)

Everyone is encourage to submit.



### Council Members

The church council members for 2019 - 2020 are listed below. If you have questions, concerns or comments, you June contact the appropriate person directly. Please keep our council members in your prayers.

#### President

Peter VanderWeyst

#### Vice-President

Bob Lee

#### Secretary

Karen Fox

#### Treasurer

Dave Finstad & Debbie Ritchie

#### Property

Bill Troll

#### Education

Kelli Trosvig

#### Stewardship

Kathy Trosvig

#### Missions

Debbie Trosvig

#### Fellowship

Debbie Saunders

#### Audit Committee

Dave Watts

Clayton Olsen

Steve Olsen

#### Nominating Committee

Kathy Trosvig

Nancy Olsen

Bob Lee

Stan Surridge





*If you would like to assist our Sunday services via Zoom,  
please contact Pastor Jeremy.*

	<b>June 7</b>	<b>June 14</b>	<b>June 21</b>	<b>June 28</b>
<b>Counters</b>	<i>Dave Finstad Kelli Trosvig</i>	<i>Debbie Trosvig Dave Finstad</i>	<i>Debbie Ritchie Ben Krause</i>	<i>Debbie Saunders Bob Lee</i>
<b>Altar Guild</b>	<i>Debbie Saunders</i>		<i>Gayle Watts</i>	

	<b>July 5</b>	<b>July 12</b>	<b>July 19</b>	<b>July 26</b>
<b>Counters</b>	<i>Peter VanderWeyst Dave Finstad</i>	<i>Karen Fox Debbie Ritchie</i>	<i>Dave Finstad Kelli Trosvig</i>	<i>Debbie Trosvig Dave Finstad</i>
<b>Altar Guild</b>				

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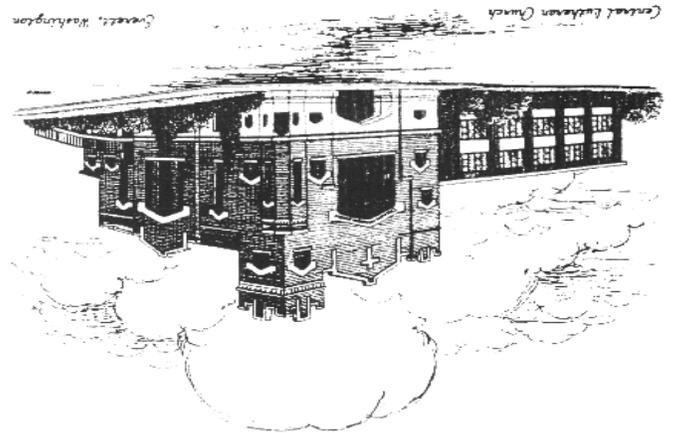
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Return Service Requested



JUNE/JULY 2020

*"For you, O God, are my fortress,  
the God who shows me steadfast love." Psalm 59:17*



Central Lutheran Church  
Everett, Washington