

FROM THE PASTOR

Jesus Brings Hope and Joy to Those Living in a Troubled World

The news of these past weeks has been filled with sadness and trouble. The Covid-19 pandemic wreaks havoc on lives. People are suffering not only from disease, but from the economic, and emotional toll that the safety measures to halt its spread have caused. Recently, there has been a lot of racial strife mentioned in the news. There is a lot of bad news out there. Looking down the road, as best we can, it is hard to imagine that these threats will ever be gone. When I was in grade school, the threat of nuclear war with the Soviet Union was on everyone's mind. As frightening as those days were, they seemed simple compared to the dangerous and complicated world we live in today.

Living through such times is obviously difficult. Yet we are not likely to ever have a time when it is not difficult. If it is not the threat of terrorism that we face, it will be something else. Like the deeds of a terrorist, illness, disease, personal conflicts, marriage problems, the loss of a loved one, invade our life when we least expect it. So what do we do?

There is a story of a man named Simon Pereins. I tried to check its authenticity but was not successful. The story says that Simon was someone who faced hard times, yet he retained his hope and joy. He was arrested and thrown into a dungeon during the 17th century, which was the time of the Inquisition. Such a sentence in those days meant your life was over. The very best you could do was to linger on in a cell that was dark, damp and full of bugs. Sooner or later you died.

Simon mixed paint. He took clay from the floor of the cell, some of his food and stirred it into paint. Then he took fragments of cloth, strings, and some of the straw that stuck to his clothes and the blanket on the floor and made then into a paintbrush. He used his cell door as a canvas.

What did he paint with such crude materials? He created a beautiful painting that still exists today. It was so striking that the Inquisitors were convinced that Simon saw a heavenly vision, and they set him free. That painting is called the Altar of Pardon. It's a painting of Jesus and his mother, Mary.

What's important about his story is not that the Inquisitors set Pereins free, but that Pereins knew he was already free even while in prison. He knew that no matter what the Inquisitors did to him he was not afraid.

Simon trusted the words of a man who lived 2,000 years ago and is still alive; a man who said, "I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies (John 11:25)." That man is Jesus Christ. He walked out of his tomb on Easter morning. He proved he is God. And he promised, "Because I live, you also will live." (John 14:19)

When hardships darken your days, there is hope. When sorrow drains you, you can find joy. Jesus gives hope. Jesus brings joy. When the future looks bleak and times are hard, don't despair. Turn to the Lord. He will give you the help you need. He will carry your burdens. He will lift your spirits, filling you with hope and peace.

- Pastor Kehren

YOUTH CONFIRMATION

Youth confirmation examination took place via Zoom on Monday, May 18th. Because of the “safer at home” regulations, the eight young people who will be confirmed this year will each have a private confirmation ceremony with their family at the church.



Alex Castro Psalm 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.



Sarah Felsing
Psalm 27:1
The LORD is my light and my salvation - whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life - of whom shall I be afraid?

Allison Hoffman
Isaiah 40:31
Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.



Mya Iusco
John 15:5
I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.



Alyssa Iusco
John 8:12
I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

Jason Kehren
Matthew 6:33
Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.



Nathan Vance
Joshua 1:9
Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.



Liyah Thomas
John 10:27-28
My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.

SMALL GROUP HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor Kehren will continue to offer communion to groups of 9 or less (Pastor would be the 10th person) on **Wednesday afternoons and evenings at 3:00 pm, 3:30 pm, 4:00 pm, 4:30 pm., 5:00 pm, 7:00 pm and 7:30 pm.** The service will last about 10-15 minutes with a spoken liturgy and prayers.

If you plan to receive communion, **please call the office in advance at 847-965-4750 or e-mail at secretary@jerusalemlutheran.org** and **indicate the Wednesday time slot** at which you plan to come. If you are e-mailing or leaving a voicemail, please indicate the Wednesday time slot at which you plan to come and the number of people attending from your family.

Here are the guidelines to maintain health and safety.

- Family groups are asked to maintain a six-foot distance the whole time.
- People will sit only in pews designated with a reserved sign and maintaining at least a six-foot distance from other family groups.
- A face covering or mask will be required and should only be removed for eating and drinking the elements.
- The person preparing the communion elements will practice proper hygiene when setting up communion.
- The bread and wine will be placed on a table and participants would come up according to family group and pick one bread wafer off of a plate and one plastic cup of wine from a tray. Next to the table there will be a waste basket to dispose of the cup.
- After each service the pew backs and other places that may be touched will be wiped down with disinfectant wipes.
- You may also drop off an offering in an offering plate as you leave.

Bible Study

We continue our online Sunday morning Bible class over Zoom from 11:00 – 11:45 am. We will study the book of 1 Peter under the theme “Hope in Hurtful Times.” The book of 1 Peter proclaims a wonderful message of encouragement and hope especially in troubling times.

If you have never used Zoom before it is very simple. Each Sunday, Pastor will e-mail an invitation to our congregational list. Simply click on the link included in the email. You don't need to set up an account. You can participate with video and audio or just audio alone.

You may also make use of free online devotional material provided by our church body. You can find them here: <https://wels.net/serving-you/devotions/>

Sunday School

Each week we will continue mailing Sunday School materials to our member families with grade school and younger children to share at home. If you want a different grade level or wish to access future lessons for yourselves, you can download these Christ-Light lessons for free at <https://online.nph.net/class-downloads>, compliments of Northwestern Publishing House www.nph.net.

Contact Ms. Tanya at tanya_kalbach@sbcglobal.net for more information about our weekly zoom “Sunday School” class for toddlers.

THANKOFFERINGS

Please keep in mind that the financial support of the ministry of Jerusalem depends entirely on the regular offerings of members, so we encourage you, if you are able, to continue your regular pattern of giving. You can mail offerings to the church office or drop them in the mailbox slot next to the school door. This will enable us to continue to pay bills and the salaries of our called workers and staff during this time. The mailing address of the church is: 6218 Capulina Avenue, Morton Grove, IL 60053. If you have any questions about sending in offerings, please contact our treasurer Steve Mueller at smuell@ameritech.net or our congregation president at Patrick.ruehrdanz@gmail.com

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COMFORT IN A TIME OF UNCERTAINTY



If you are a regular subscriber to our synod's monthly magazine, *Forward in Christ*, your April, May, and June issues are waiting for you in your church mailbox. May and June issues are also available online at no charge. Go to <https://online.nph.net/fic-free-issue-form>

Meditations, our synod's daily devotional booklet, is also now available for May 31 – August 29, 2020. Copies are in your church mailbox if you have requested one and are also available in the church entryway. Free digital access is available at <https://online.nph.net/free-meditations-form>

You will be asked for your name and email address when you follow the above links. The magazine/devotions will then be available for you to scroll through. You will be added to NPH's email list for news and promotions. You can easily unsubscribe. Simply click on that option in the welcome email you receive after signing up to view the publications.

Thank you from Luther Prep High School

Jerusalem Congregation,
Thank you for your gift of \$325.00 toward the sponsorship of a table at the Luther Prep "virtual" gala event in April. \$58,000 in total was raised during the event to support Luther Prep in its ministry of encouraging future pastors, teachers and congregational leaders.



Jerusalem Summer Camps

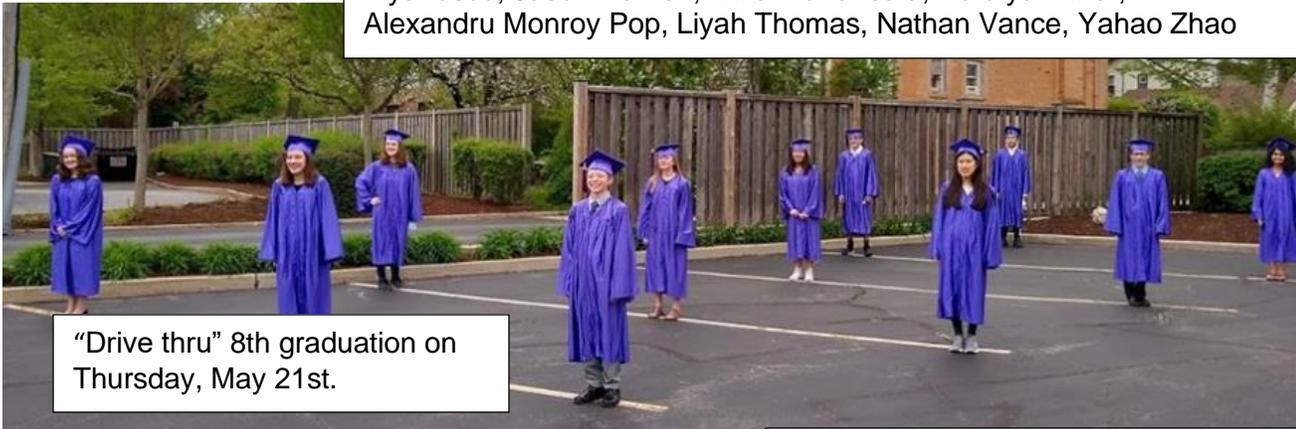
Due to the 'stay at home' order and other restrictions, our soccer camp will not take place in June and we will not hold the STEAM camp. If state guidelines allow, we may do the soccer camp in place of our STEAM camp July 13-16. Stay tuned for more information.

School Sign Fundraising Update

We only have about \$9k to go for our sign to be fully funded! REMINDER: MAKE ANY CHECKS OUT TO JERUSALEM LUTHERAN SCHOOL. If you have questions, please contact myself Patrick Ruehrdanz at Patrick.ruehrdanz@gmail.com or Principal Vance at djviaq@gmail.com.

Congratulations 2020 Jerusalem School Graduates

8th Grade Sarah Felsing, Ziyue Gao, Isabela Iacob, Alyssa Iusco, Mya Iusco, Jason Kehren, Mika Manansala, Natalya Miner, Alexandru Monroy Pop, Liyah Thomas, Nathan Vance, Yahao Zhao



“Drive thru” 8th graduation on Thursday, May 21st.

Students completing our preschool program –

Zoe Botten	Ishaan Azeemraja
Sofia Camacho	Cameron Colianne
Gelsomino Ceriale	Lillian Dawood
William Durband	Nate English-Folliard
Owen Epperson	Dylan Gatia
Edward Kang	Edessa Gorgis
Audrey Mandell	Ashton Iusco
Anella Odisho	Abigail Kim
Cameron Reding	Carter Le
Teagan Slattery	Eunho Lee
Yul Sohn	Sophia Senkyr
Emerson Taber	
Anthony Younan	

Kindergarten

Alice Chung, Kara Jackson, Ethan Kim, Jinyoung Lee, Max Ludwig, Kayla Paz, Ariel Schiop



Kindergarten students try on their graduation hats during a Zoom meeting with Mrs. Epple

School Staff Update

Gabby Kim has decided to step down from her position at Jerusalem School at the end of this school year. We are thankful for her service and wish Gabby all the best and God’s blessings in her future. The church council decided to extend a one-year provisional call to Ginny Kehren to help fill the gap in our staff. We are excited to announce that the Holy Spirit has moved Ginny Kehren to accept her call. We are thankful for this opportunity and look forward to her using her many gifts to serve the children at Jerusalem.

Principal duties will be handled by Pastor Kehren who will serve as interim principal together with an executive committee of Chiseon Kim, Deb Felsing, and Emily Buetow. School finances will be handled by Lois Conrad who has agreed to serve in a volunteer role. We think that this plan will adequately cover our school’s needs for the upcoming school year.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our congregation president, Pat Ruehrdanz 847-370-8812 or Patrick.ruehrdanz@gmail.com.

Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church

6218 Capulina Ave
Morton Grove, IL 60053

Pastor Jonathan Kehren
Phone: 847-965-7340
Email: pastor@jerusalemchurch.org

Summer Worship Schedule

In-person worship times to be determined
Online Worship on Facebook and YouTube

*“Our purpose is to serve all people
with the gospel of Jesus Christ on
the basis of Holy Scripture”*

CHURCH REOPENING UPDATE

The state of Illinois is currently in phase two of the “Restore Illinois” reopening plan and on track to move to phase three on May 29th. However, phase three still mandates that church gatherings remain at ten people or less. Phase four will allow us to have services and gatherings at church of fifty people or less if proper health and safety protocols are followed. We will likely restart services in late June. We hope to have further information soon about a plan for reinstating worship services and other gatherings.

During this time we are providing a simplified video service over YouTube and Facebook. The Sunday service will be posted by Sunday morning. For those who don't have internet access we are mailing out a printed copy of the service and sermon.

Here is the link to our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWzPzwN7HAE3BLM4ZpybHkQ>

Here is the link to our Facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/JerusalemMortonGrove/?eid=ARcnw-uUPu8lwQR5HnZz13doMD-2RTN-abpKhWSal_pKhUQKSRG0luj2D7VJVDCtLnX0m7uQMt-8qelq



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