LUTHER MEMORIAL CHAPEL &
UNIVERSITY STUDENT CENTER

CHAPEL NEWS

1916 – 2016: A Century of God's Gifts in Jesus Christ

3833 N. Maryland Avenue, Shorewood, WI 53211 Phone (414) 332-5732 May 2020

Thoughts on Virtual Worship *by Pastor Larson*

Our Sunday services are now recorded on video. They are available on Facebook (facebook.com/LMCUSC/), YouTube, and the LMC website. Every Sunday morning I will send the sermon text, sermon audio, and YouTube link with the entire Divine Service. I know that it is comforting for many souls to hear the voice of their shepherd and to see their church in worship and in prayer. We should all recognize that technology, when used in the service of Christ and His church, is most certainly a blessing!

But virtual church is not quite the same thing, is it? Seeing the distribution of the Lord's Supper on a screen is not the same as reaching out and receiving with our mouths the holy body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine. Seeing a digital image of the pastor and laying our eyes on loved ones from a screen just isn't the same as actually wrapping our arms around them!

Now don't get me wrong! Of course, via the internet God's Word remains living and active, sharper than a two-edged sword (Heb. 4:12). But it's not like being there. And even though we might hum or sing along from a distance, it's no substitute for actually being there together in the flesh before the risen Christ.

According to the 7th Article of the Augsburg Confession, the church is the gathering of the faithful, among whom the Word of God is preached purely and the Sacraments are rightly administered. Our holy faith is informed by God, who Himself became flesh for us, incarnate of the Virgin Mother, who joins us to Himself in baptism, preaching, and through His Holy Sacraments. In union with Christ we also have fellowship with one another, and a shared common life.

The words of Paul have become our own: "But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face!" (1 Thess. 2:17). Technology is nice for now to help us stay connected! Let us all use this time to repent of our sins, revel in the love and consolation of the Gospel, and long again for the Body of Christ, recalling the words of King David, "I was glad when they said to me, let us go to the house of the Lord!" (Ps. 122:1).

Serving Us

Michael C. Larson, *Pastor*
Jason Lane & Brian German, *Assisting Pastors*
Kathryn A. Hill, *Church Secretary*
Martha Galvin, *Director of Music*
Julie Wohlrabe, *iO Director*
Hannah Engwall, *USC Coordinator*

Please don't forget to send in your weekly offering to the Lord. There continue to be many financial obligations to meet each week.

The church mailing address is right above the headline on this page.

You may also give online at lmcusc.org/give

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DIVINE SERVICE AVAILABLE AT LMC *BY PASTOR LARSON*

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." ~ Jesus

On March 25th the state of Wisconsin issued its Safer at Home Order. In that order, however, is an allowance for religious services of less than ten people (i.e., the Divine Service). Rather than having random small groupings of people where some might be of higher risk (diabetes/respiratory complications), we thought it best for the health and welfare of the congregation to offer the Divine Service instead to family units and individuals to further limit the possibility of transmission. We felt that this was the best possible way to honor the intent of the state order to keep folks safe, while still having the opportunity to receive the Sacrament.

This is how the Divine Service has been available at church the last several weeks, and will be at least for the immediate future. A smaller chapel has been set aside for these simplified Communion services scheduled in half-hour time slots. I include a picture, so you know what to expect here.

The purificator, the linen used to wipe the chalice, is soaked in alcohol between each service. The altar rail is also disinfected between all services. Paper bulletins are used exclusively instead of hymnals to limit transmission.

We are now aiming to have services on Sunday and Wednesday mornings from 6 a.m. to noon, as well as Monday evenings from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. As those opportunities fill up, we will set aside additional days as well for the Divine Service.

Should I come to church? Well, there are loving reasons to simply stay home, read Scripture, pray, sing, and hunker down, based upon your own unique situation (sickness, family, vocation, etc.).

There are also loving reasons to bring yourself and your loved ones to church every single week during this time of change and uncertainty. Isolation, fear,

and anxiety is a pandemic of its own. When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought me joy! (Ps. 94:19). There is Christian freedom here as you consider your own unique family circumstance, how to care for those in your household, and love for the neighbor. If you have a desire to be present for the weekly Divine Service, please call me so that we can find a time.

I will continue to provide you with audio and video sermons, hymns, and prayers in weeks ahead for contemplation and comfort. Confession and Absolution is available in person or over the phone. It has been a joy to receive feedback from so many of you regarding your pattern of prayer! This is what our fathers and mothers in the faith used to call the "family altar." God is working much good through all this as our homes begin to look and sound like little churches, with praying, singing, and worship of God!

The Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord, Thursday, May 21

Call Pastor to schedule your presence at a Divine Service for this Feast.

What is the Ascension? It is the event in Christ's exaltation, forty days after His resurrection, which marked the beginning of His session at the right hand of God the Father as head over all things for the sake of His Church. Forty days after Jesus' resurrection, He ascended into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. The Ascension marks His exaltation by God the Father for having redeemed us from sin, death, and the power of Satan. Victorious over death and hell by His sacrifice for our salvation, He now reigns with power at the Father's right hand.

It's very important to observe that when Jesus ascends into heaven, He does not say "goodbye" or "good luck!" It's no farewell speech! Instead He gives us a wonderful message of consolation, "Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Mt. 28:10). How is the Lord with us always? Is He in our hearts? Do we simply cherish His memory? No!

Listen to how Luke the Evangelist introduces the Book of Acts: "In the first book (Luke's Gospel!), O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus *began to do and teach*, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen" (Acts 1:1-2). The key words here in reference to Luke's Gospel are the things "Jesus began to do," BEFORE His ascension.

Alright, so what's the point? The Ascension is the beginning of something new and wonderful in which Jesus promises to be with us in a yet more glorious way. The risen and ascended Lord promises to be with us wherever His Gospel is preached and His Sacraments are administered. As the disciples gazed into heaven at His ascension, so all the faithful look forward to His Second Coming in glory, when He will raise us up from the dead to share fully in the glory of His resurrection and ascension in the life everlasting.

For Your Home Devotions in May

Date	Name of Day	Hymn of the Day	OT Reading	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
May 3	Fourth S. of Easter (Jubilate)	*LSB* 483	Is. 40:25–31 *or* Lam. 3:22–33	Psalm 66	1 Peter 2:11–20 *or* 1 John 3:1–3	John 16:16–22
May 10	Fifth S. of Easter (Cantate)	*LSB* 556	Is. 12:1–6	Psalm 98	James 1:16–21	John 16:5–15
May 17	Sixth S. of Easter (Rogate)	*LSB* 766	Num. 21:4–9	Psalm 100	1 Tim. 2:1–6 *or* James 1:22–27	John 16:23–33
May 21	The Ascension of Our Lord	*LSB* 491	2 Kings 2:5–15	Psalm 110	Acts 1:1–11	Mark 16:14–20 *or* Luke 24:44–53
May 24	Seventh S. of Easter (Exaudi)	*LSB* 539	Ezek. 36:22–28	Psalm 27	1 Peter 4:7–11 (12–14)	John 15:26—16:4
May 31	Day of Pentecost	*LSB* 497	Gen. 11:1–9	Psalm 68	Acts 2:1–21	John 14:23–31

INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH AT LMC:
REMEMBERING JOAN MOELLER
10 APRIL 1936 – 23 MARCH 2020

BY JULIE WOHLRABE, INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH DIRECTOR

To the members of Luther Memorial Chapel, to my own congregation of Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church, to all the congregations in the South Wisconsin District and to all our other friends reading this:

As we are all adjusting to the current reality during this coronavirus pandemic, I'd like to tell you about our beloved iO teacher, Joan Moeller, who died in her sleep at the age of 83 on March 23rd. We are sad for our loss, yet we are joyful for her gain.

Most of you probably didn't know Joan, or know her very well, but for the 19 months that I've been the iO Director, it's been a true privilege to spend time with her. During the three years prior to my current position, I was a volunteer iO teacher on Tuesday mornings, and Joan taught on Thursday mornings, so we rarely saw each other. I'm so grateful to God for the times we did have to sit together in my office and just talk.

Joan was born in Wisconsin and attended Lutheran High School in Milwaukee, then graduated from Valparaiso University in 1958 and began teaching English as a 22-year-old later that same year at her alma mater, Milwaukee Lutheran High School. She taught there for 43 years and retired at the age of 65 in 2001. In addition to her teaching, Joan's passion for the theatre manifested in her directing or being the assistant director for many plays and musicals at MLHS. During her teaching years, she regularly chaperoned her high school students on trips to Europe in order to introduce historical sites to them personally. Along the way, she also earned a master's degree at Marquette University.

Joan's dear college friend, Arlene Brackensick (an active volunteer with the international community since the late 1990s and ISM/iO board/committee member since 2010), also came to Milwaukee, where the two remained lifelong friends, as well as travel buddies. Venturing numerous times to New York City to attend plays and musicals, they also attended the Milwaukee Symphony together for 50 years, AND, sometime after 1968, when the Milwaukee Bucks team was founded, the two of them regularly attended and supported the new professional basketball team.

Throughout her life, Joan was a member of St. Peter – Immanuel Lutheran Church, while Arlene became a member of Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church (OSELC) in Whitefish Bay, my own congregation. At some point in the 1990s, the chaplain from the University Lutheran Chapel (ULC) near UWM spoke to a women's group at OSELC about the International Student Ministry (ISM) at ULC. Arlene began helping with the international students, and a few years later she was asked about teaching an English class, which she gently declined, "NO WAY!!" But she knew exactly who to ask and yep, that's when Joan began; and as Arlene said, "It was a match made in heaven!"

Before her retirement, Joan began helping international students at ULC, and when that closed and moved to LMC in Shorewood in 2001, so did Joan. Since her retirement in 2001, and when Bessie Fick arrived in 2010 to be the part-time coordinator for ISM at LMC, Joan had already been meeting with UWM international students at LMC for nine years in one way or another. Bessie wrote,

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INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH AT LMC: *REMEMBERING JOAN MOELLER*

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"Joan guided me in different opportunities to share the culture of Milwaukee with the internationals, taking us to her favorite restaurants, creating German food-tasting parties, sharing great berry-picking sites, inviting us to great concert opportunities and sharing us with her family by taking us on tours to her brother's home." Bessie continued, "She became invaluable helping scholars with English grammar questions as they prepared scholarly papers. She assisted in proofing grant applications so that we could continue to grow the international student outreach, and even as she recovered from surgeries, she would invite me to work with her at home so we could meet grant deadlines. God truly used her to reach many with the love of Christ, shown by her sharing her great gift of the English language with those who were struggling to feel at home in a strange place with a strange language."

In 2012, Deb Madigan, another OSELC member, began volunteering with the international students and spent time with Joan over the past eight years. Paraphrasing some of Deb's comments: ever faithful and dedicated Joan would teach her class if only one person was present and would drive her car the 12 miles through zero-degree temperatures and blustery winds. Clearly being motivated by the love of Jesus Christ, Joan would enter a room with great delight and a rosy, twinkling smile to greet whoever was present. She would bring delicious treats to share and usually with a story behind them, i.e., Kringles from Racine, etc. Joan would arrange group lunches, trips to her brother's rural home, the symphony, annual apple- and strawberry -picking excursions to Barthel Fruit Farm (owned by her former student). Joan would bless us with her infectious joy of life, which she never ceased to cultivate and share. Over the years, Joan established beautiful relationships with various foreign visiting scholars because of her unwavering faith in the forgiveness of sins through the sacrificial death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Joan effectively laid out a personal, genuine "welcome mat" to everyone to receive the Lord's invitation to have faith in Him, His promises and ultimately, eternal life with Him.

Pastor Michael Larson of LMC agrees: "Joan's enthusiasm and cheerfulness were infectious! She was deeply passionate about International Outreach and befriending any and all with the love of Christ Jesus. We miss her and are thankful for all the good we received from her. Above all, we thank God for the holy life of faith He has granted to her and the rest she now enjoys in Him who has so dearly loved her. Alleluia! Christ is risen!"

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INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH AT LMC: *REMEMBERING JOAN MOELLER*

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One of our former visiting scholars from Taiwan, Dr. Michael Sun, lived here three years with his family. He now teaches at The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina. Michael and his family are active Christians, and their two boys were baptized by Pastor Wieting at LMC. Michael was deeply saddened about Joan's death and wrote to me, "I am forever grateful for the opportunity to meet Joan, who helped make Milwaukee feel like our home. Joan was a fantastic teacher and shared cultural lessons from her rich experiences, teaching us about Milwaukee's arts, opera, history and cuisines. But she also took us to many art and history museums, restaurants and schools, allowing us to have a better personal experience of Milwaukee culture and society. Joan was a close friend, very personal and generous. She encouraged and helped us to adjust between the differences in our cultures. Joan was like an angel sent by our loving God. From her gentleness and love, we experienced the love of God. Most of my friends and family members agree that the time spent in Milwaukee was one of the best times of our lives. Joan's kindness and love are a huge part of this and we miss her. But now she is with Jesus, and we look forward to seeing her again when our journey on earth ends. Thank you, God, for your love through Joan."

One of our newest iO volunteers, Janet Wilgus, a member of Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, was Joan's student in the early 60s and wrote to me that it was a privilege having Joan as her English teacher at MLHS. She also wrote, "I particularly remember her encouraging us to read beyond our required texts, giving us some non-American suggestions. This opened other cultures and peoples for me and became a practice that stayed with me as I lived and worked in several countries overseas." At one point, Janet had attended a MLHS fundraising event and sat at a table with Joan and other former students, and this is when Joan told them about her volunteer teaching with iO. Earlier this year when the coronavirus was already affecting our program, Janet sat in on Joan's class and said that Joan was as enthusiastic as ever, leading the conversation and thinking of ideas for field trips. Janet shared another interesting thing with me: she wrote, "I happened to sit next to Joan at the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra annual meeting last November. One of the speakers was Andy Nunemaker, Chairman of the Board. During his remarks about the value of music in a community, he said that he wanted to talk about a person that helped to develop his appreciation of music. This was his high school English teacher, who encouraged her students to listen to classical music, think about it, respond to it. He said that she is sitting right here, and he called on all of us to recognize her for the marvelous gift. She was deeply touched." How wonderful!

The day Joan died, I posted a notice about her death on WeChat, which is an international type of Facebook. Straightaway, I received over thirty messages of condolences from across the world. Yes, Joan was loved by people far beyond Wisconsin.

I am amazed how Joan has inspired and influenced people all her life. Each week, Joan would drive to LMC, no matter the weather, get out her collapsible walker, bring her cute burlap bag filled with many things to share with her class or with me,

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INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH AT LMC: *REMEMBERING JOAN MOELLER*

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ride the elevator down to the ground floor and be there early to greet her students. Often, she would bring me things she'd cut out of the newspaper, such as events the internationals might enjoy attending. She was always thinking about them, what they could learn and how their lives could be enriched.

Oh, and did she love Shakespeare!! Some of you may know that every summer, for decades, she drove her car over 500 miles to Stratford, Ontario, Canada, where she would stay for six weeks to attend the Stratford Shakespeare Festival. I remember last summer when she wasn't able to attend, and she asked if LMC had a VHS tape recorder so she could watch some of her old tapes from the festival. Pastor Larson set it up for her in the University Student Center, and I can still see her sitting on the couch watching intently. She knew many of the actors personally, and that only enhanced her enjoyment. When I'd check in on her periodically, she'd be smiling and laughing, and she was so cute I took a picture of her. I'm so sad I won't be able to take another one.

Thinking about all the students whom she taught through the years, I wonder, did you know Joan? Was she Miss Moeller to you at some point in your life? How did her life touch yours? And then, what about you? How is God using you in your life? Especially now as we navigate our way through this coronavirus pandemic, I imagine a lot of people are asking themselves this question. You may also think that, wow, Joan did so much in her lifetime, and what have I done? Please remember and read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 – one body, many members. God blesses everyone with different types of gifts, and some are big and bold, and some are small and quiet. But we all matter; we all matter to Him. May we all seek God's will and direction for our lives.

This is being written on April 9th, Maundy Thursday, and tomorrow is Good Friday. April 10th would have been Joan's 84th birthday. Instead of us celebrating her birthday with her here, she is in the very best possible place to be, isn't she?! Joan is with our Lord Jesus, celebrating His resurrection, with Him, every day. Oh, how I can imagine her: no pain, no need for her walker, simply basking in the light of God's glory as she hears the most glorious music imaginable, the multitude of the heavenly hosts singing and praising our Holy Triune God! Yes, I can imagine this, and I hope you can, too. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for blessing all our lives with Your beloved Joan. To You, Heavenly Father, to You be the glory!

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. – 1 Corinthians 15:58

Excerpts from the Large Catechism by Martin Luther
The Ninth and Tenth Commandments: on Coveting

The Ninth Commandment

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.

The Tenth Commandment

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

In the Seventh Commandment, the vice is forbidden where one wrests to himself the possessions of others, or withholds them from his neighbor, which he cannot do by right. But here it is also forbidden to alienate anything from your neighbor, even though you could do so with honor in the eyes of the world, so that no one could accuse or blame you as though you had obtained it wrongfully.

For we are so inclined by nature that no one desires to see another have as much as himself, and each one acquires as much as he can; the other may fare as best he can. And yet we pretend to be godly, know how to adorn ourselves most finely and conceal our rascality, resort to and invent adroit devices and deceitful artifices (such as now are daily most ingeniously contrived) as though they were derived from the law codes; yea, we even dare impertinently to refer to it, and boast of it, and will not have it called rascality, but shrewdness and caution. In this lawyers and jurists assist, who twist and stretch the law to suit it to their cause, stress words and use them for a subterfuge, irrespective of equity or their neighbor's necessity. And, in short, whoever is the most expert and cunning in these affairs finds most help in law, as they themselves say: *Vigilantibus iura subveniunt* [that is, The laws favor the watchful].

This last commandment therefore is given not for rogues in the eyes of the world, but just for the most pious, who wish to be praised and be called honest and upright people, since they have not offended against the former commandments, as especially the Jews claimed to be, and even now many great noblemen, gentlemen, and princes. For the other common masses belong yet farther down, under the Seventh Commandment, as those who are not much concerned whether they acquire their possessions with honor and right.

DEATH

Dorothea Ede entered her eternal rest on April 2, 2020. She was laid to rest on Holy Thursday, April 9.

FIRST COMMUNION

Luther James Larson received First Communion (Confirmation) on April 12, 2020.

COMFORT IN DEPRESSION

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. Isaiah 53:4-5

Scriptures of Comfort

If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light about me be night,"
even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is bright as the day,
for darkness is as light with you. Psalm 139:11-12

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
"The Lord is my portion," says my soul,
"therefore I will hope in him."
The Lord is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul who seeks him.
It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the Lord. Lamentations 3:22-26

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? Psalm 27:1

For those who suffer from depression, the Church prays:

Almighty and eternal God, the Consolation of the sorrowful and the Strength of the weak: Graciously hear the prayers of those who cry to you in any trouble or distress, so that in all their needs they may see and receive your great help and comfort; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Poem: The Wicked Foe Accuses

The wicked foe accuses;
he nags me all day long.
For all I did or did not
I answer with this song:
Christ is risen, alleluia, alleluia!

The boulder that was blocking
the exit from His tomb
Christ rolled over the devil
to seal that tempter's doom:
Christ is risen, alleluia, alleluia!

No longer need I utter
one word in my defense—
the empty tomb has voided
sin's dreadful consequence:
Christ is risen, alleluia, alleluia!

At God's right hand my Brother
begs pardon for my sin;
His righteous Father listens,
and loves me as His kin:
Christ is risen, alleluia, alleluia!

Poem reprinted from A Verse Vigil and Selected Poems © *2017 Kathryn Ann Hill.*

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