

# Holy Lamb Lutheran Church

2541 Forestbrook Road  
Myrtle Beach, SC 29588

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## April 2020

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. (Matthew 10:28) Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. (Matthew 10:31) Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." (Matthew 14:27)*

These days we hear fear in the voices, see fear in the faces, watch fear in the actions of people who are afraid of what the future holds. In the three passages above, from Matthew, Jesus encourages us to have no fear. In the first two passages Jesus had just warned the disciples that they would be hated and even die for being his disciples. In the third passage the disciples thought they were seeing a ghost walking toward them across the Sea of Galilee. Both of these situations would have been terrifying, arguably more terrifying than death by coronavirus. Yet, Jesus says, "Do not be afraid."

When Jesus faced torture and death himself, yes, he prayed, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me." But when that did not happen, he accepted the wrath of God on our behalf, in order that we will *never* feel God's wrath. Oh, the comfort and peace this assurance can bring to our fearful hearts, if we will only allow it. No matter what happens during our lives on this earth, whether in the next days, weeks, or years, or whether from the coronavirus or any other trial, our eternal destiny has been guaranteed by Christ's suffering and death in our place; and his glorious, victorious resurrection and ascension, which assures us of an equally glorious resurrection and ascension.

All of this is *not* to say that we should throw caution to the wind and have coronavirus parties, or even gather as a congregation to worship. Just as God has blessed us with medical miracles, minds, and equipment, and continues to guide us to new and promising treatments, he has given us a rational thinking mind to do what is smart in threatening situations. We hide from people pointing guns at us; we run from people assaulting us, and we protect ourselves, as much as possible from the unseen virus that is our current threat. God has given us the ability to thoughtfully respond to threats in these ways just as surely as he has given us medical cures.

All of these gifts of God are known as First Article gifts – they are the gifts of knowledge and rational thinking encompassed in the definition of the First Article: "He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, *my reason and all my senses*, and still takes care of them. He richly and daily provides all that I need to support this body and life." (Luther's Small Catechism, emphasis mine).

Let us rejoice and use to their greatest advantage *all* the gifts God has given us, and "Do not be afraid."

This newsletter will have a much different format and content than we are used to. Obviously all gatherings at Holy Lamb have been curtailed. But in many and various ways our ministry continues, and in fact is even more essential. The rest of the newsletter is comprised of articles on various topics, some related to personal spiritual growth in these unusual times, others explaining opportunities for ministry to others among us.

Please look at all the articles, and refer back to them throughout the month as the circumstances around us change, or your availability changes.

In His Service,

*Pastor Panning*

### Contents:

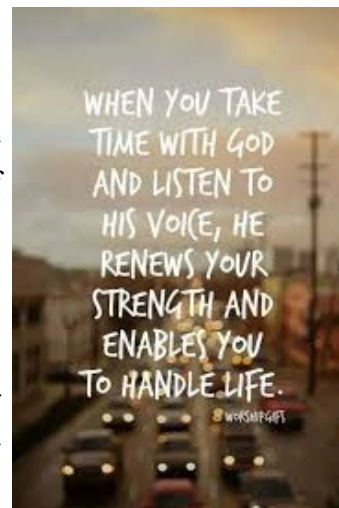
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## Being in the Word daily

Now more than ever, a daily infusion of God's Word will help us deal with the turmoil going on around us.

Our synod's own publisher, Concordia Publishing House (CPH), offers several options worth considering:

- **A Treasury of Daily Prayer** - This volume has daily readings from the Bible as well as the Lutheran Confessions. It includes a format for daily devotions and much more. Kathy and I have used this for periods of time and have found it very rewarding. Its list price is \$50.00, but CPH is offering it for \$34.99. This is a savings of 31% on a wonderful resource for your home.
- **Day by Day – 365 Devotional readings from Martin Luther** - These are the devotions we use at the beginning of Council and Elder meetings. At one paragraph each, they offer a quick devotional start to a day. Paperback, \$15.99
- **Readings from the Psalms with Luther** - This volume includes all 150 of the Psalms, as well as a brief commentary by Luther on each one – again, a great, quick start to your day. Hardcover, \$17.99.
- Many more titles are available at [cph.org](http://cph.org), currently including some free downloadable resources for adults and children.



I encourage you to go online and browse through their assortment to find one that suits you. The peace brought to us in daily Scripture reading is, as I say at the end of every sermon, “the peace which surpasses all human understanding.”

## Praying in color-- What is This?

It is a ministry where we color cards at home while praying for the person it is going to. We add a bible verse and say, “as I colored this card I was praying for you,” and sign our first name.

We have received several thank you cards from people grateful for the prayers and cards. God has arranged for some of the cards to arrive on a day when an uplifting message was most needed.

If anyone is interested in joining us in this ministry, please contact Eileen St. Clair and she will start you off with some cards to color and a list of people, and answer any questions you may have about this ministry. Thank you to those of you already praying in color, you have touched lives.

Praying in color reminder: If you have put a name on the list and there is a change in the person's condition, please contact Eileen St. Clair.



## Continuing Worship Opportunities

No matter the restrictions placed on travel, we still have an opportunity to worship weekly. More than that, we have the opportunity to go back and review comments that we may have missed in the sermon, and want to hear again.

We have four worship options:



- **Live-streaming on Facebook** I continue to conduct worship services in our Sanctuary at 9:00AM on Sundays. We will also have Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services at 7:00PM. Easter worship will be a single service at 9:00AM. These can be seen live on our Facebook page: Holy Lamb Lutheran LCMS.
- **Watch the recorded version** on Facebook any time after that.

**Access the recording on our website** shortly after the service completes. Tom Marquardt has built a new website for us. At the top of the page you will find a **Media** tab. Clicking that will open a page with all of our previously recorded services, including several of our Midweek Lenten services. The website is: [holylambmyrtlebeach.org](http://holylambmyrtlebeach.org).

- **For those who do not have access to the internet**, we have a limited number of Galaxy tablets. These are miniature (approx. 6" x 9") handheld devices. I have modified them so that they are quite simple to use: press one button to 'wake up' the device; swipe your finger across the screen; and touch the worship service you would like to watch.

Think of these as a modern day equivalent to someone dropping off a cassette recording of the service. No passwords, no computer training. So far I have 4 services on each tablet. I'm not sure how many it will hold before I need to erase the older ones to make room for the new ones. Each week I install the newest service and exchange an updated tablet for the one I gave you the previous week.

If you would like to try one of these, please call me at 843-424-5300.

If our travel is further restricted, preventing me from conducting the worship at the church, I will live-stream the services from home. They will still be available through the first three options above. For those who do not have access to the internet, I will be happy to have a devotional version of our worship on the phone with you.

## A Great Technology Gift from LCEF

Our entrance into the live-streaming world was fast and furious, using the minimal technology (a cellphone). But we have just received notice that our production capability will soon be enhanced exponentially.

The Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) decided to gift live-streaming cameras to 2 congregations in each of the synods 35 districts. Holy Lamb was one of six nominated in the Southeastern District; and we were selected as one of the two to receive one.

This camera is capable of zooming, panning, and cropping the picture. Our current set-up has the camera right next to the baptismal font in the front of the church. While this is acceptable when nobody else is in the Sanctuary, it would not work when we resume public gathering. The camera from LCEF will allow us to place it out of the way, and yet provide a much better picture.

Thank you LCEF!

## Communication

Communication is vital in these times. Here, I will address some various opportunities for us to be in communication with each other.

### Written from Church

I believe we have finally fully updated our communication links. I believe we have all email addresses in our database and we have an easy way to email everybody. We have identified all members without email, and have them on a 'hard copy' mail list. We will use these two lists regularly to communicate.

If you hear of someone who is not receiving our communications, but would like to, please call me, the church office, or email us with their contact information.

### Written Between Each Other

By now I expect we have all heard of what a blessing our **Praying in Color** ministry has been to so many who have received their cards. As beautiful as the cards were, you can read in the thank you cards we receive that the greatest treasure was simply being remembered.

At this time when we are so isolated, being remembered can have the same heart-warming effect on each of us, healthy or not. Consider taking a moment to actually write a note to a friend, or even a name you don't know in our directory. (Remember, our praying in color writers often don't know the people they are sending cards to.) It will give them an amazing lift in these dreary days.

### Phone Calls

In conducting the ordinary order of business, I have been making many more phone calls these weeks than usual. So far, they have mostly been related to specific tasks or church business. But even these calls have been received with more joy than usual, simply because it breaks up the monotony of the day with a new voice and a fresh conversation.

I look forward to the day, hopefully soon, when I can simply make calls to our members to greet them, spend a few minutes on the phone visiting, and wish them God's continued presence and peace.

But this joy-filled and joy-sharing activity is one that each of us can enjoy. Pick up the directory and call someone you haven't talked to for a while, or even call a name you don't know! They will have received this newsletter, understand what you are doing, and enjoy the phone call along with you.

Let's keep the lines of communication open, active, and alive with joy and peace.



## **Holy Lamb Lutheran Church**

2541 Forestbrook Road  
Myrtle Beach, SC 29588

Rev. David J. Panning, Pastor

**Church**  
843-236-1344

**Preschool**  
843-236-9645

### **Worship Schedule**

Sundays—9:00 am

### **Sunday School & Bible Study**

Tuesday Morning Bible Study      9:00 am

*Hebrews*

Wednesday Evening Bible Study    6:30 pm

Will resume April 22nd

Women's Bible Study—Watch for Updates