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# GOOD NEWS

at

## Renner Lutheran April ..... 2020



Renner Lutheran Church  
47474 258th Street  
Renner SD 57055

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47474 258th Street Renner SD 57055 338-7120  
[www.rennerlutheran.com](http://www.rennerlutheran.com)  
Volume 37 ~ Issue 4

From  
the  
Pastor

## “God Opens Our Eyes”

In a recent conversation with Pastor Randall Questad (Baltic and East Nidaros Lutheran Churches), Randall reminded me of a passage from Genesis 21 that tells the story of Abraham sending Hagar and Ishmael away. You may remember in the story, Abraham began to have doubts of whether or not he would have any offspring, as God promised he would. Because Abraham’s wife, Sarah, is old and beyond child-bearing years, she encourages him to have a child with her Egyptian slave-girl named Hagar. Abraham and Hagar have a son, Ishmael. But when Sarah eventually does have a child (Isaac), as God promised she would, Sarah doesn’t want Hagar and Ishmael around any longer and said to Abraham, “Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac.” Abraham is distressed to do so, but God tells him that it will be ok. Abraham sends Hagar and Ishmael away, giving them some bread and a skin of water.

Hagar and Ishmael wander in the wilderness for a time and soon the water is gone. Hagar begins to give up and she puts her son under a bush and walks a short distance away and prays, “Do not let me look on the death of my child.” And the text from Genesis 21 tells us, “as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, ‘What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him.’ Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink.”

Hagar was ready to give up and expected that she and her son would soon die. The water to sustain them was gone. Little did Hagar realized, until God opened her eyes, that there was water practically right in front of her. She didn’t see it. She was so distraught that she was not able to see what God had provided. When God opened her eyes, she had new hope and was able to go on. God not only open her eyes to see the water right there, but God gave his word of promise: “...for I will make a great nation of him.”

From  
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Pastor

Maybe the turmoil and the fear and the threat of what the COVID-19 has done and is doing to our lives make us feel despair. We are like Hagar, in that God has not given up on us, but is promising and providing for us and is with us and hears us in the midst of whatever circumstances we experience. Isolation – as certainly Hagar and her son experienced in the wilderness – along with questions of provisions for daily life – these are not enough to prevent God from meeting us in the midst of our daily and different routines. In fact, nothing can prevent God from being with us, as Paul tells us in Romans 8, “...neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

God blesses and opens our eyes to see the “water” that He gives, whatever wilderness we might be in. This month we celebrate the most awesome event: Jesus’ resurrection. Because of the resurrection, you and I have the promise of salvation; the promise that death is not the last word; the promise of eternal life. I don’t know at this point if we will be together in worship on Easter Sunday (April 12<sup>th</sup>), but whether we are physically isolated or standing side by side, the promise of eternal life that God declares is no less real; it is no less certain.

In Christ,  
Pastor Jim

## MONTHLY FINANCIALS FOR FEBRUARY 2020

### Offering Totals

	General Fund
March 1	\$1,450
March 4	\$10,881
March 8	\$1,357
March 11	\$1,071
March 22	\$435
March 29	\$14,607

Total All Giving: \$ 15,879.85    Budget: \$ 16,121.45  
 YTD Total All Giving: \$ 28,984.99    Budget: \$ 30,457.33  
 Expenses: \$ 15,981.00    Budget: \$ 17,279.88  
 Expenses Year to Date: \$ 30,790.57    Budget: \$ 33,851.33

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Line of Credit Balance \$ .00                      Available: \$ 24,000.00  
 Checking Account Balance (per Bank statement): \$ 3,426.66  
*Uncleared Transactions*                      \$ 517.42  
 Funds Available (includes remaining Line of Credit)                      \$ 26,909.24

### **2020 Line of Credit Limit \$24,000.00**

Each month, 1.28% of our General Offerings are given to Benevolence.

Each month, 1.28% of our General Offerings are given to a designated recipient (voted on by council but suggestions are always welcome!)

A detailed report of monthly financials is available for your review in the 3 ring binder located on the table outside the Pastor's office door.

Endowment Fund Balance:    \$ 14,560.10



## DO THE FIVE

Help stop coronavirus

1. **HANDS** Wash them often
2. **ELBOW** Cough into it
3. **FACE** Don't touch it
4. **SPACE** Keep safe distance
5. **HOME** Stay if you can



In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 211 Helpline Center is providing up to date information, assistance in finding food or other basic essential needs, and connecting volunteers to those who need them. In addition to connecting individuals with resources, we're providing a centralized location for organizations and businesses to list available assistance, closures and cancellations, and program restrictions.

We know that in challenging times our neighbors and community rallies together in support. If you're in need of assistance, or would like to bring resources or events to our attention, please let us know by calling 211 or visiting our COVID-19 resource page.



Council Minutes – March 3, 2020

Present: Pastor Jim, Wendy Madsen, Jon Hofstad, Stephanie Monroe, Jason Dykstra, Lori Merkwon, Deanne Kracht, Faye Berghorst, Deb Park, Mary Lei, Harold Ahlers, Deb Loe

Absent: Chris and Ronda Snyder

Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm by President, Deb Loe

Mission statement read by all

Devotions: Faye Berghorst “Called by God to Serve”

Council Secretary’s Report: Approved via email

Financial Secretary/Treasurer Report: Motion made by Pastor Jim, second by Stephanie to approve and place on file, motion passed

Pastor’s Report:

· Pastoral acts, February 2020

o No Baptisms, Funerals or Weddings

· Visitations

o Shut-ins and nursing home residents: 6

o All member visits: 6

o Hospitalized: 4

o Community and potential members: 5

· Lenten worship: God Calls

o Participating Pastors: Randall Questad, Jared Rakness, Tom Stadem and Jeff Sorenson

· First Communion Class: March 1, 8, 15

Cont...



· Crossroad Conference Assembly: March 15th at 2:00 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church

o Deanne Kracht will attend - need a male delegate

· Synod Assembly: June 5-6 (Fri/Sat) at Our Saviors Lutheran Church

o Deanne Kracht will attend - need a male delegate

· RightNow Media has been cancelled

· Youth Events

o March 21st – Kids Against Hunger; leaving church at 9:30am

o March 8th – Monthly youth meeting at 6:00pm

o April 26th – Midco Aquatics

· Motion made by Wendy, second by Lorrie to approve and place on file, motion passed

## Committee Reports

### Board of Ed:

Vacation Bible School July 26-July 30 6-830

Will be led by Shetek

Cost is \$55/student; \$200 deposit due with contract

Planning a Sunday School teacher dinner

Looking at April 17, 18 or 19

Want to play games/show appreciation

Motion made by Jon, second by Mary to approve and place on file, motion passed

Cont...



**Board of Deacons:**

Need greeters from 3/29 otherwise March is full  
Offering Counters Identified for March/April  
Motion made by Wendy, second by Deb to approve and place on file,  
motion passed

**Board of Trustees:**

Passcode to Pastor's office was updated and sent to council  
Insurance will increase by \$227.00  
Request to check with insurance agent about what happens if  
we are put in a flood plain  
Motion made by Jason, second by Faye to approve and place on file,  
motion passed

**Executive Board:**

Deb and Harold attended Planning meeting for rezoning of property  
east of church. Request was denied.  
A large donation was received from an anonymous donor  
Letter read from Lutheran Outdoors regarding property sold in Hills  
Motion made by Wendy, second by Lorrie to approve and place on  
file, motion passed

**Organizational Reports**

**WELCA:** Refer to report in newsletter

**Men in Mission:** Monthly meeting at Safari, good size group is meeting  
each month, will talk about creating mobile bulletin board for fellowship  
hall

**Old Business:**

RightNow Media was cancelled  
Shetek campaign video with Don Nelson will be during April 7 meet-  
ing

**New Business:**

Wendy will work with staff on being added to payroll  
Council Retreat will be held on May 2<sup>nd</sup> – pot luck signup next meet-  
ing  
Will discuss short-term and long-term planning

Cont...



**Other Giving Missions:**

1.28% of February General Offering was \$170  
\$170 to be given to Synod Mission Support  
Carry over from February (\$120) will be combined with  
March (\$140) for Kids Against Hunger donation

**Server:** Faye Berghorst

**Devotions:** Harold Ahlers

**Next month's meeting will be Tuesday, April 7th**

Meeting Adjourned with Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Council Secretary Ronda Snyder

If there are any left out or there is an error please notify Mary Knudson at 338-7128.

- 1 - Randy Sorum
- 2 - Austin Machmiller
- 4 - Myrna Bos                      David Wilson
- 6 - Cheryl Christopherson
- 7 - Keith Myrmoe                      Kathy Moen
- 8 - Kathy Evenson
- 9 - Paul Schloe
- 12 - Rahn Siemonsma
- 14 - Abby Wilson
- 15 - Jordan Brende
- 16 - Chris James                      Brett Sorum
- 17 - Jeff Spargur                      Noah Schloe
- 18 - Juliann Stolle
- 19 - Dianne Muth                      Kylee Friman
- 21 - Shelby Reidlinger
- 22 -Lorrie Merkwan
- 24 - Kevin Brende                      D'One Riswold
- 25 - Jon Clausen
- 26 - Carolyn Vosburg
- 30 - Emily Anderson                      Doris Brandt

*birthday blessings*

ELCW



There were 6 present for our March 12 meeting. Natalie led devotions. Secretary read minutes from January meeting since there was no February meeting. Treasury balance is \$741.85. Thankyous were read from the organizations that received donations. It was reported that our April 25th Daughters of all Ages Salad Supper is cancelled due to the Coronavirus. The Crossroads Conference scheduled for April 25th at Brandon Lutheran is still scheduled. It was suggested by congregational president, Deb Loe, that it would be a good idea if we clean the church surfaces with disinfectant. We did a quick clean of surfaces including rails, doorknobs and elevator touch spots including switches. Birthdays for March were Jan Jibben, Mary K, , and Janice Peterson. Our noon potluck originally scheduled for April 9th is postponed until April 16th because of Holy Week. Our meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and Jan Jibben served treats.

*Mary Knudson, secretary*

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Crossroads Conference WELCA Units:

Due to the continuing effects of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) with the need for social distancing and limitations of gatherings, the WELCA Crossroads Conference WILL NOT be held on April 25th, 2020.

A newsletter type publication will be forthcoming with what was going to be shared at Spring Gathering. Currently the WELCA State Synodical Convention in June 2020 is still planned at First Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls. Since Crossroads Conference is hosting, included in the publication will be information on assistance needed with making this a success.

As we continue to take one day at a time, God is with us on this journey of uncertainty.

Until we are able to gather together again, continue to be safe!

Karen Jensen  
WELCA Crossroads Conference Secretary/Recorder

# 2020

# APRIL

# 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Please see the church website as there may be changes made as to when we will worship.			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Sunday School	20 1:00pm Knitters for Christ	21	22 5:30pm-supper 6:15pm-worship 7:00pm-Confirmation	23	25 WELCA Crossroads Spring Meeting Cancelled	25
26 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Sunday School	27 1:00pm Knitters for Christ	28	29 5:30pm-supper 6:15pm-worship 7:00pm-Confirmation	30		