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# Good News

at

## Renner Lutheran

May 2020

+++  
Good  
News!



Renner Lutheran Church  
47474 258th Street  
Renner SD 57055

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**“SHARE THE BLESSINGS”  
GOD DOES!**

47474 258th Street    Renner SD 57055    338-7120  
[www.rennerlutheran.com](http://www.rennerlutheran.com)  
Volume 37 ~ Issue 5



It is certainly different being the Church these days. The very nature and make-up of the church involves interaction; fellowship among the members of the church. When we are denied that opportunity, there is a longing in our hearts for connection, for seeing one another, for being with one another. We are taking advantage of technological avenues available to us that help to provide opportunity for connection – text messaging on our phones, “virtual” worship on our computers, and such, but that is not the same as physical presence with one another. Isolation sucks! We rebel against it. Some are violating “stay at home” recommendations, such as the congregation that continued to worship together and then was fined for their violation.

I believe that the physical distancing that we are doing to prevent the Coronavirus from spreading, to “flatten the curve”, is making us ever more aware of how valuable our face to face interaction is with one another. If we ever took that for granted in the past, I don’t think we will take it for granted from now on. I won’t take for granted the gift of a simple handshake or the blessing of a hug. Isolation / distancing from one another is hard on us.

Certainly God knows that because God created us that way – with innate longing to “be with” and not distant. That’s why God is Immanuel – “God WITH us.” God sent Jesus to be with us; to be one of us – born of flesh and blood, sharing His presence with us. After the resurrection, Jesus met some of the disciples at the empty tomb, stood among the disciples gathered behind locked doors, walked from Jerusalem to Emmaus with two of them, met the disciples along the shore of Lake Galilee. He invited them, ate with them, encouraged them, blessed them with peace and his Holy Spirit, and was with his disciples in other ways so that his disciples would know that he is with them.

In the midst of our coping with whatever challenges or struggles that we are going through, Jesus is with us – inviting us, feeding us with his Word of hope and forgiveness and life, blessing us, and helping us to know his presence with us. My prayer is that God would help you to know ever more confidently that He is with you; that God is not distant, but “walks” with you in the midst of your day to day events.

Your brother in Christ,  
Pastor Jim

Members of Renner Lutheran Church,

The Church Council would like to update the congregation on the financial health of Renner Lutheran Church. We are humbled by the response of our congregation during these difficult times. Consistent weekly giving has continued while we worship remotely. In addition, we received multiple anonymous large gifts over the past two months. For these reasons, giving to the church for January through April exceeded \$102,000. This is roughly \$40,000 more than we budgeted for the same time frame which you’ll see reflected in our checking account balances on the April monthly financial statement.

In April the council applied for the Payment Protection Program (PPP) which is part of the CARES Act to strengthen the financial security of the church. This is a low interest loan which could be forgiven in late 2020 if the funds are used for payroll and other qualifying expenses. If the loan is not forgiven and we are able, our intention is to pay off the balance without incurring interest expenses or fees. The loan was granted to the church prior to our full knowledge of the generous gifts.

At this time, we have faith that our strong financial position will sustain us despite the unknown of how long COVID-19 will impact the local economy and our church.

Due to COVID-19, we will not be mailing quarterly giving statements for the first quarter of 2020. If you would like a copy of your statement emailed or mailed please contact Chris Snyder at [chris.snyder37@gmail.com](mailto:chris.snyder37@gmail.com) or 605-261-4040.

Thank you,  
Renner Lutheran Church Council

## Council Minutes – April 7, 2020

**Present (viz ZOOM):** Pastor Jim, Wendy Madsen, Jon Hofstad, Jason Dykstra, Lorrie Merkwan, Deanne Kracht, Faye Berghorst, Deb Park, Mary Lei, Harold Ahlers, Deb Loe, Chris Snyder, Ronda Snyder, Stephanie Monroe

**Absent:** No One

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

Mission statement read by all

**Devotions:** Harold Ahlers “Perspective”

**Council Secretary’s Report:** Approved via email

**Financial Secretary:** Motion made by Wendy, second by Pastor Jim to approve and place on file, motion passed

**Treasurer Report:** Motion made by Stephanie, second by Jason to approve and place on file, motion passed

### **Pastor’s Report:**

Pastoral acts, March 2020

No Baptisms, Funerals or Weddings

Visitations postponed until further notice

Confirmation Class – Looking to forgo remaining 2 sessions

Continue to provide worship via website/you tube

Crossroad Conference/Synod Assembly: Cancelled

Will contact leaders of women’s groups to reach out to members of the congregation to see if there is any need

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

## Committee Reports

### **Board of Ed:**

Sunday School has been cancelled for the remainder of the school year

Vacation Bible School led by Shetek July 26-July 30 6-830

Exploring ways to host virtually

Looking for ways to provide resources to kids electronically during this time

Motion made by Pastor, second by Chris to approve and place on file, motion passed

### **Board of Deacons:**

Available to help find individuals for virtual services (electronics, piano, vocals) if needed

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

### **Board of Trustees:**

Elevator Maintenance will be scheduled

Will reach out to insurance company regarding insurance flooding

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

### **Executive Board:**

Letter of appreciation for daily devotions read

Reaching members of the community, outside of the congregation, through online service

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

## Organizational Reports

**WELCA:** Refer to report in newsletter

**Men in Mission:** April meeting cancelled

**Old Business:**

Council retreat will be cancelled

**New Business:**

Worship Service

Motion made by Ronda to cancel all in person church activities until further notice, second by Harold, motion passed

CARES ACT – Payroll Protection Act

Motion made by Faye, second by Jason for Wendy to submit application for additional information from the bank

**Other Giving Missions:**

1.28% of March General Offering was \$431

\$431 to be given to Synod Mission Support

Motion made by Ronda, second by Deanne, for Pastor to utilize \$431 other giving at his discretion towards needs within the congregation as they arise

**Devotions:** Jason Dykstra

**Next month's meeting will be Tuesday, May 5th**

Meeting Adjourned with Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Council Secretary Ronda Snyder

**May 1-**Allen Busmann

**May 2-**Jace Doan Deb Busmann

**May 3-**David Atherton

**May 4** Ardys Erickson Lisa Siemonsma

Nicole Lawrence Tanner Anderson

**May 5** Dee Christenson

**May 6** Natasha Dykstra

**May 7** Jay Peterson Dorothy Pedde Jerri Jo Sorum

**May 8** Bill Reimnitz Parker Simons

**May 10** Crystal Aman

**May 11** Jill Nelson

**May 12** Mark Loe

**May 13** Mark Christenson

**May 15** Trinity Willert

**May 16** Natasha Jensen Philip Eggers Kristi Krumbach Daniel Bangasser

**May 17** Richie Christenson Deb Park

**May 19** Robin Willhoit

**May 20** Bonnie Aesoph Charlie Nelson

**May 21** Kelle Eggers

**May 23** Laura Bult

**May 25** Ron Jensen

**May 27** Zachorey Anderson

**May 28** Jon Siemonsma

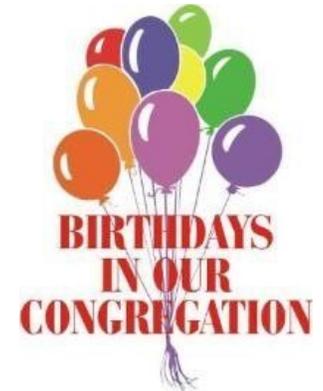
**May 29** Christi Reit

**May 30** Duane Krumbach Bill Peterson Faye Berghorst

**May 31** Jacob Steele Jeffrey Steele

If there are any mistakes or omissions contact

Mary Knudson at 413-7404



**SUMMARY MONTHLY FINANCIALS FOR MARCH 2020**

Total All Giving: \$ 33,690.88      Budget: \$ 14,742.16

YTD Total All Giving: \$ 59,767.74      Budget: \$ 44,409.79

Expenses: \$ 14,826.32      Budget: \$ 16,497.56

Expenses Year to Date: \$ 45,616.89      Budget: \$ 50,348.89

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Line of Credit Balance (Interest Rate 5.50%) \$ .00

Available: \$ 24,000.00

Checking Account Balance (per Bank statement): \$ 23,135.77

Uncleared Transactions \$ 1,721.80

Funds Available (includes remaining Line of Credit) \$ 45,413.97

2020 Line of Credit Limit \$24,000.00

Each month, 1.28% of our General Offerings are given to Benevolence.  
March \$431.00

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

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: \$ 14,560.24

*Attendance & Offering Totals*

	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
March 11	\$1071	-
March 22	\$435	-
March 29	\$14, 607	-
April 5	\$3015	-
April 12	\$4565	-

**Women** of the **ELCA**  
**Renner Lutheran ELCW News**

There is no news for the women this month because everything was cancelled – our meeting on April 9 , the Daughters of all Ages banquet and the Conference women’s conference in Brandon both for April 25. Who knows about the May meeting. More later. Stay well and stay safe.

Mary Knudson, Secretary

# May 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	1	2
3	4	5 7:00pm - Full Council Via Zoom	6	7	8	9
10  HAPPY MOTHER'S Day!	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 9:30am - Worship w/ Holy Communion	18 1:00pm-Knitters for Christ	19	20 5:30pm-supper 6:15pm- worship	21	22	23
24/31 9:30am - Worship	25 1:00pm-Knitters for Christ	26	27 5:30pm-supper 6:15pm- worship	28	29	30