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Good News at Renner Lutheran

June 2020



Renner Lutheran Church
47474 258th Street
Renner SD 57055

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www.rennerlutheran.com
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From
the
Pastor

What is the Church?

What is the Church? Maybe some of us tend to think about the Church as a building, like when we say, “I’m going to the Church.” But the Church is not so much a building as it is people; people that live and act out of their faith in God, given to them through the Holy Spirit. The Church is the people of God, doing “Kingdom work” in their everyday lives; sharing their faith and all the other gifts and “fruits” (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness...) that God has given to them. (See Galatians 5:22) When we think of the Church, I would guess that we typically think of it in the more obvious, public expressions of the Church that we see and experience.

But during these last couple of months (April & May), it has been a different experience of being the Church. We have not gathered together for worship; not sat in the pews in the sanctuary with one another. We’ve not received Holy Communion together, or sung hymns or prayed in the same room (the church sanctuary) with one another. We’ve not shook one another’s hands or given one another a hug or told stories to one another face to face over a cup of coffee in the fellowship room. But – we are the Church, nonetheless. Our worship has involved watching others lead us in worship while we sit in our living rooms or kitchens or dining rooms – possibly alone or maybe with immediate family sitting there with us – gather around a computer or some other screen. Whether we worship while we are in a church sanctuary or in our homes, we are still the Church. The Church is the people claimed by Christ – no matter how we meet (or don’t meet) together.

What is the Church? When we think of the Church, maybe we think of it in terms of what the Church does; worshipping together, enjoying fellowship with one another, studying the Bible, praying and serving others together in Jesus’ name, and celebrating with one another the love, faith, and assurance that God has given to us. We often describe the Church in terms of the events and activities. But as we think of “the Church”, I hope we do so not just in terms of “doing,” but also in term of “being.”

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In the same way that I hope that we see ourselves not just in terms of what we **do**, I hope we see the Church not just for what the Church does, but what the Church **IS**. To **be** the Church is not dependent on anything you or I might do, but is simply a gift given to us by our Lord Jesus. To **be** the Church allows us to rest in the things that **God has done**, and simply be children belonging to Christ. I think to fully grasp what that means can be uncomfortable for us. It can be uncomfortable because when we have been given an identity, we are easily inclined to ask, “Now, what do I **need to do** in order to **BE** that?” It can be difficult for us to accept the gift that **requires nothing** of us, and tells us “You already are.” It is important for us, in being the Church, that we begin first and foremost with the affirmation that being the Church is something that God gives to us. It is important to rest in **BEING** who and what we are, without trying to make ourselves worthy, or earn what God has already given to us.

During these past many weeks when we have isolated from one another, maybe one lesson that we learned more fully is that no matter what we do – or no matter what we are **NOT** doing together – we are still the Church. What we do, doesn’t make us the Church. Our identity doesn’t come from what we do – and our identity isn’t taken away from us because of what we have not been doing. Our identity comes from Jesus Christ, and having the identity that Christ gives to us will lead us to do many things. But the identity Jesus gives to us comes first – and from that identity will flow a multitude of things that we will want to do.

The fact that we can’t do some of those things (such as: worship together, receive Holy Communion, fellowship with one another) is why this time is hard for us as the Church. We want to be doing / experiencing / receiving / giving in those ways that has usually defined us as the Church. So, we look forward to doing those things again – **BUT**, know this: that we have not stopped being the Church. **BEING** a child of God is in God’s hands; it is a gift and something that is already done for us.

In Christ,

Pastor Jim

Attendance & Offering Totals

May 3 and May 10 services—\$4423.00
May 17 and May 24 services—\$5364.33



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

No meeting was held for the month of May.

Mary Knudson for the ELCW



**NEWSLETTER ITEMS are due
Friday
June 19th by 5pm
Email articles to Julie @
rlcsecretary@hotmail.com**

MONTHLY FINANCIALS FOR APRIL 2020

Total All Giving: \$ 40,053.63 Budget: \$ 17,633.61

YTD Total All Giving: \$102,749.70 Budget: \$ 63,222.93

Expenses: \$ 14,311.41 Budget: \$ 16,023.88

Expenses Year to Date: \$ 60,308.19 Budget: \$ 66,372.77

2020 Line of Credit Limit \$24,000.00

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

Available: \$ 24,000.00

Checking Account Balance (per Bank statement): \$ 68,336.84

SBA Payroll Protection Plan Loan \$ 20,293.00

Uncleared Transactions \$ 798.68

Funds Available (includes remaining Line of Credit) \$ 111,831.16

Each month, 1.28% of our General Offerings are given to Benevolence.
April \$192.00

Each month, 1.28% of our General Offerings are given to a designated
recipient (voted on by council but suggestions are always welcome!)
April=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: \$ 14,560.36

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATES FROM
RENNER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Kira Christenson Mason Machmiller
Hope Farsdale Libby Byre
Ty McCann Saige Wirkus
Matthew Anderson Trinity Willert
Kyann Havlovic Madison Lawrence
Madison Gerstenecker

College graduates

Demi Erickson
Malik Peterson
Amanda Peterson

WHEN WILL WE BEGIN WORSHIPPING TOGETHER (IN PERSON) AGAIN?

That is a question that is often asked. The RLC council will meet on June 2nd for the next monthly meeting. At that meeting the council will evaluate when / how we will begin worshipping together. The council will let the congregation know what is decided regarding when we will worship in person, and the sort of precautions we will implement when we do worship together (how we do the offering, how we do Holy Communion, wearing face masks, etc.).

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

On Sunday, June 7th at 2:00 pm we will once again be walking/cleaning the ditches along Hwy. 115, starting at Jensen Electric and going south, almost to the interstate. Those helping / walking the ditches will be given a yellow vest to wear and are encouraged to wear long pants, good shoes or boots and gloves.

June Birthdays:

- 1- Tammy Doan
- 2- Marna Phinney McKenzie Gerstenecker
- 4- Charley Moe
- 5- Michelle Harkema
- 6- Nicole Dybvig-Wirkus Sierra Sorum
- 7- Danielle Johnson Chris Snyder Jackie Peterson
- 9- Lori Mohr
- 13- Wade Peterson
- 14- Nathon Reit Chuck Park
- 21- Dan Bechina Saige Sirkus
- 22- Katherine Turner Stephanie Monroe
- 25 - Ryan Farsdale
- 26 - Lanette Diede
- 29 - Duane Myrmoe
- 30 - Lisa Sorum Diep Doan Eric Jensen



If any of these dates are wrong or if any have been omitted please let Mary know at 413-7404.

Council Minutes – May 5, 2020

Present (via ZOOM): Pastor Jim, Wendy Madsen, Jon Hofstad, Jason Dykstra, Lorrie Merkwán, Deanne Kracht, Faye Berghorst, Deb Park, Mary Lei, Deb Loe, Chris Snyder, Ronda Snyder

Absent: Harold Ahlers, Stephanie Monroe

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm by President, Deb Loe

Mission statement read by Deb Loe

Devotions: Lorrie Merkwán “Your Mind and the Mind of Christ”

Council Secretary’s Report: Approved via email

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

Treasurer Report: Motion made by Pastor Jim, second by Chris to approve and place on file, motion passed

Pastor’s Report:

Pastoral acts, April 2020

No Baptisms, Funerals or Weddings

Visitations postponed until further notice

Worship continuing online

Periodic devotions being sent via text

Discussion on preparations for resuming worship

Planning service to acknowledge HS Seniors

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

Committee Reports

Board of Ed:

Vacation Bible School led by Shetek will be cancelled

Exploring ways to host virtually

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

Board of Deacons:

No Report

Board of Trustees:

Yearly elevator service has been completed

Opening a claim with insurance to fix peeling siding

Will work with Kevin Callies (retired CPA) to schedule a financial audit

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

Executive Board:

No Report

Organizational Reports

WELCA: April meeting, the Daughter of all Ages banquet and the Women’s Conference were cancelled

Men in Mission: May meeting cancelled

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Adopt A Highway: Pastor will schedule a time to clean the ditch this Spring

Resuming Worship: Will continue to worship virtually until further notice

How to proceed with PPP funds: will be used towards payroll/

Recent large donations: will be included in general giving

Other Giving Missions:

1.28% of April General Offering was \$512

\$512 to be given to Synod Mission Support

Motion made by Wendy, second by Jon, to keep \$400

of March other giving for any local congregational

needs that arise and combine remaining dollars with

April other giving (\$543 total) to be given to ELCA

COVID-19 Relief fund.

Devotions: Jason Dykstra

Next month’s meeting will be Tuesday, June 2nd

Meeting Adjourned with Lord’s Prayer

Submitted by Council Secretary Ronda Snyder

June 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Please refer to the church website for updates on worshipping in person</p>	1	<p>2</p> <p>7:00pm - Full Council via zoom</p>	3	4	5	6
<p>7</p> <p>2:00pm- Adopt-A-Highway Jensen Elec</p>	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	<p>19</p> <p>5:00pm-Newsletter deadline</p>	<p>20</p>  <p>First Day of Summer</p>
<p>21</p>  <p>FATHER'S DAY</p>	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				