



trinity

LUTHERAN CHURCH,
MISSOURI SYNOD

May 2020



Watch Services on Trinity McAlester Facebook page

“A Percentage to Count On

Dear Friends in Christ,

For weeks on end, the daily news has barraged us with numbers of novel coronavirus cases, percentages of those dying, hospitalized and confirmed.

I am so confused. Early on, I heard Dr. Fauci say “most everyone will catch this virus sometime” and so we want to flatten the curve to protect the medical resources from getting overwhelmed in the initial peak. We need to isolate for a few weeks. But over time the narrative shifted to: “we must protect everyone from getting it at all by isolating – closing everything the government decides is not essential to preserving physical life.” Sadly, spiritual care became non-essential and people had to die without such a comforting presence of God in pastors and chaplains. And the period was extended to many weeks. I’m deeply concerned when God is left out of the care equation. And I’m a sceptic when the story changes so often based on medical science.

A sampling of percentages that confound me:

- * 40-60% of crew that tested positive on the Theodore Roosevelt were

asymptomatic

- * Snopes reported that tests for the virus has false positives and false negatives up to 30% or more depending on who is tested?

- * The state currently has 288 hospital beds of virus cases out of 4600 beds available. Only 6.2% utilization. Who pays for empty hospital beds?

- * The R factor for novel coronavirus is assumed/guessed at a 2-3 by “researchers,” yet China death rates make it closer to a 0-1 for spread factor. Herd immunity means a percentage of the population is immune and that percentage depends on the R factor. An R2-3 means 50-67% need immunity to reach herd status. But R0 would be much less for herd immunity, maybe 30%?

I don’t know who or what to believe as these reports and numbers are so contradictory and possibly misleading. We citizens are left wondering how to proceed and especially why? I feel let down by medical science as reported by the media. We all desperately need something that is a sure thing. I need to trust 100% and feel fully assured

that tomorrow will bring a new day.

Jesus, as we believe teach and confess, is the sure thing we crave. He is truth. His Word is truth. I’ve studied his Word in Holy Scripture from top to bottom and there is for every part, a theology of what I’m supposed to do with it. I know which parts are the mysterious things that only God knows – ones that we take at face value without explaining. So what to do with this day? God tells me. When I feel isolated, I know most assuredly that He is with me, present and listening and loving and caring. Going to scripture – God’s very words bring me to that place of his presence and truth and calm assurance. Following are Bible citations particularly helpful right now:

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,” (2 Timothy 3:16, ESV) “... [Jesus said] And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Mat. 28:20, ESV) “... Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you.” (Josh. 1:5, ESV) “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of



things not seen.” (Heb. 11:1, ESV) I don’t need to tell you what to do with these assurances, they speak to you without my guidance. Continuing: “For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.” (Romans 6:5, ESV) “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:3–6, ESV) “Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” (Acts 2:36, ESV) “Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.” (John 17:17, ESV) “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,” (John 14:16, ESV)

(letter is continued on page 2)

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”

Stewardship: Please remember that all church expenses go on even if you worship remotely or miss entirely. You can still do an offering as your act or worship to God by sending your offering envelope/check to Attention: Harold Dunlap Trinity Lutheran Church, 190 E. State Hwy. 31, McAlester, OK 74501. It remains confidential as only Pastor handles the mail and Harold handles offerings.

Evangelism: We are streaming service from our church Facebook page using Facebook Live and will keep doing so. We are printing the communication card that everyone will use in worship services and we begin using it once services are back to normal. An advertising card to hand out for Olive Branch ministry is in use. *Carol Niedfeldt*

Education: Sunday School is not meeting until restrictions are lifted. Cell

group has a new name: Deep Dive Cell Group Bible Study. *Carol Niedfeldt*

Youth: Hoping to start up Youth night once rules are lifted so we can meet again.

Loretta Meyer

Fellowship: We need to schedule the next game night event. *Don Gleichman.*

Social Ministries: The food pantry hasn't served anyone. . *Don Niedfeldt*

LWML: We are challenged to have a May meeting with the Memorial Holiday and other factors. Look to June. *Loretta Meyer*

Olive Branch Outreach

We are thinking when to do a full public announcement media blitz. There is a need right now with people stuck in close quarters and discovering disheartening secrets about each other leading to conflict. The challenge to us is to have meetings with them. Primus is ready to do mediations to complete training and be ready to serve the ministry.

Disc Golf: The club hopes to install a gate and fencing on our eastern-most driveway up to keep out dumpers. They still need to haul away the dumped tires when the Pride Clean-up comes around. There's lots of work to do clearing trees and brush for the new 9 and cleaning up from winter. Spring also means spraying for weeds and putting out tick granules. **Trustees:** The roof and gutter leaks are holding. The disc golf club's wife for His Place is available for church people and functions to use. See Pastor for the password. We have shingles to roof the Noah's Ark, but need laborers if you have the skills. We hope to refinish the rusted partitions in the Men's room. Next workday is May 2.

First Experience Entryway Remodel:

We're still working to find a console serving table and a couch for the nursery. Bible verse decals are ready to place on the walls – see Loretta if you can help with skills to mount them.

A Percentage to Count On

(continued from page 1) With all those promises from the Lord our God, we definitely live fully forgiven by God because of Jesus precious blood, spilled for our sake to make us righteous. His win came in victory at Easter, the big victory day for us in Christ, who rose to defeat sin, death and the forces of the evil one. And we must remember that the earth is his dominion till the Lord comes to take us home. This world and the imperfect leaders we have may give us more uncertainty than we desire. Science, especially medical science, will keep on amazing and confounding us as we grow more experienced and deal with it regularly. May God bless you with the peace and certainty of a Savior following God's plan to bring you eventually to that place prepared for you in heaven!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Glenn

State Phase 1 Re-Opening Guidelines (published 4/23/20)

May 1, 2020, the following businesses can reopen:

- Dining, entertainment, movie theatres and sporting venues can operate using CDC-recommended social distancing and sanitation protocols.
- Gyms can reopen if they adhere to CDC-recommended social distancing and sanitation protocols.
- Places of worship can reopen for in-person meetings or worship if they leave every other row or pew open and adhere to CDC-recommended social distancing and sanitation protocols, plus the recommended guidelines from the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. (above copied from those guidelines)

State Phase 2 Re-Opening Guidelines (target to happen May 15 subject to meeting criteria)

- Funerals and weddings can resume under social distancing protocols
- Children's nursery areas in places of worship can reopen

State Phase 3 Re-Opening Guidelines (target to happen June 1 subject to meeting criteria)

- Employers can resume unrestricted staffing of worksites
- Summer camps (church and school) can open

Sunday Bible study: "Christian Care at Life's End"

Pastor Glenn leads a study based on the CTCR booklet "Christian Care at Life's End". We've heard in the news about doctor's

2nd Susan McGee
7th Jay Henson



NOVEMBER

May
20th Robbie Waldron
22nd Teresa Dove
24th Travis Cosgrove
31st Jerome Atkinson



Jerry & Karen Yagher
in memory of Karen's mom
Harriet Pearson



ANNIVERSARIES
May

Karen & Kenneth McGee 20th
Brenda & Steven Phipps 21st
Harold & Barbara Dunlap 23rd
Cameron & Michele Fields 30th



Please contact Pastor and Karen Brown when a name can be removed or changed to another category

LORD: We Implore You to Hear Our Prayers

For Healing of Chronic Ills: Maggie Brennan, (Clayton Lutheran) COPD & emphysema, Sheila Curtis health issues, Darlys Hutten, health issues, Earl & Irene Meyer, high BP, (Pastor's dad and mom), Lisa Milton, COPD, Bill & Billie Moore, hospice care (Connie Loman & Teresa Dove's father), Laura Moore (Primus & Veronica Moore's daughter-in-law), Steve Phipps, Jan Robison rehab for hip replacement surgery (Reese's neighbor), Ester Valenta, health issues (Linda Valenta's mother-in-law)

Thanksgiving: For Jan Robison for successful hip replacement surgery (Reese's neighbor), for the improving outlook for covid-19 pandemic, for more workers being able to return to work, for sporadic hopeful news of ongoing risk of virus infection

Enduring Cancer: Harold Hackler, cancer (Conner Field's uncle), Curtis Jacobson, metastatic cancer & COPD, Primus Moore, cancer, Ellen Paar, breast and colon cancer, (Pastor's Aunt), Russell Stevens, cancer (Josh Mindemann's uncle)

Special Healing Needs: Bill Coats, back home with IV treatment for pneumonia and pancreatitis, (Pastor's brother-in-law), Earl Meyer, afib for 6 weeks now, (Pastor's Dad), Don Gleichman, rehab after knee surgery and getting heart stents, Joey Morrow, brain injury after fall, (Reese's neighbor), Don Niedfeldt, Achilles tendon injury, Russell Stevens, stem cell treatment complications (Josh Mindemann's uncle), Gerry Valenta, recovering from stroke, All people ill with Covid-19

For Strength: for all people sheltering in place, the institutionalized including the elderly people cut off from visitors, Audrey Brown & family, Curtis Jacobson family, Raven Jacobson, Jason Alexander Luvenburgh & family, (infant grandson of Harold Dunlap), Donnie & Lisa Milton (Clayton friends), Primus Moore family, John Peasha Jr. family, Kevin Pollard

Prayer Focus for the Month of May: for graduates and confirmands **Prayer Focus for the Month of April:** for Seminarians & Vicars receiving divine calls and assignments & all calling congregations

Trinity Prayer Warriors

If you have a request for special prayers, please contact Karen Brown 918-569-7885 or email her at karensdbrown@hotmail.com. Also call Pastor Glenn 918-916-4469 cell.

Lutheran Bible Translators – Ghana!

Michael Ersland The wedding was by far more beautiful than we had imagined. We had so many family members present and lifelong close friends. It was a joy to celebrate together the joining of our two families and God's beautiful gift of marriage. Our time together was priceless! I, Naomi, look forward to sharing with you a little from the wedding and then about the months ahead.

Confident in Christ, Michael and Naomi Ersland



USHERS CAPTAIN
Harold Dunlap

ALTAR GUILD
Loretta Meyer
GREETER
Harold & Primus

May 2020

COMMUNION ASSISTANT
Harold Dunlap

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Pastor's Day Off Stanley Crapo Graveside Service 10:30 am at Oak Hill	2 Pastor's Day Off Church Workday with Social Distance Outdoors
3 9:15 am Worship	4	5 No Clayton Bible Study cancelled	6 Confirmation 3:00 pm (Facebook Chat)	7 National Day of Prayer Cell Group Bible Studies cancelled	8 Pastor's Day Off	9 Pastor's Day Off Men's Man Card Breakfast cancelled
Day 9:15 am 0:30	11	12	13	14	15 Pastor's Day Off	16 Armed Forces Day Pastor's Day Off
Armed Forces Day 9:15 am Worship	18	19 Clayton Bible Study maybe	20 Newsletter article's & Calendar Event's Due	21 The Ascension of the Lord Cell Group Bible Studies maybe	22 Pastor's Day Off	23 Memorial Day Week LWML cancelled
9:15 am 0:30	25 Memorial Day	26	27	28	29 Pastor's Day Off	30 Pastor's Day Off

Altar Flowers
for the
Month

Jerry & Karen Ya-
gher
in memory of
Karen's Mother

Why Laughter is Good for Your Marriage

Laughter is good medicine, having an important physiological effect on you and your soul mate.

by Les Parrott, Leslie Parrott

Laughter is good medicine, literally. It has important physiological effects on you and your soul mate. The French philosopher Voltaire wrote, "The art of medicine consists of amusing the patient while nature cures the disease." Modern research indicates that people with a sense of humor have fewer symptoms of physical illness than those who are less humorous.

This idea, of course, isn't new. Since King Solomon's times, people have known about and applied the healing benefits of humor. As Proverbs tells us, "A cheerful heart is good medicine." (17:22)

But humor brings more than physiological benefits to a husband and wife. Humor helps us cope.

Consider Janet, who wanted to impress a small group of couples with an elaborate dinner. She cooked all day and enlisted her husband's help to serve the meal. All went well until the main course. As her husband was bringing in the crown roast, the kitchen door hit him from behind and the platter flew across the room. Janet froze, regained her composure, then commanded, "Dear, don't just stand there. Pick up the roast, go in the kitchen, and get the *other* one!"

No doubt about it, humor helps us cope — not just with the trivial but even with the tragic. Psychoanalyst Martin Grotjahn, author of *Beyond Laughter*, notes that "to have a sense of humor is to have an understanding of human suffering."

Charlie Chaplin could have said the same thing. Chaplin grew up in the poorest section of London. His mother suffered from serious mental illness and his father died of alcoholism when Charlie was just five. Laughter was Chaplin's tool for coping with life's losses. Chaplin eating a boiled leather shoe for dinner in his classic film *Gold Rush* is more than a humorous scene. It is an act of human triumph, a monument to the coping power of humor.

One does not need to be a professional comedian, however, to benefit from comedy. Viktor Frankl is another example of how humor can empower a person to contend with horrendous circumstances. In Frankl's book *Man's Search for Meaning*, he speaks of using humor to survive imprisonment during World War II. Frankl and another inmate would invent at least one amusing story daily to help them cope with their horrors.

A Nazi prison camp is a dramatic backdrop to underscore the value of humor, but it may help you remember what a good laugh can do for you and your marriage on stressful days. Let's be honest, every marriage has its difficulties. When the checkbook doesn't balance, when the kids can't seem to behave, when busy schedules collide, when you can't remember your last date-night, not to mention your last vacation. For these times, and dozens of others, humor is invaluable.

Take it from the professionals: Legendary comedian Bob Hope says laughter is an "instant vacation." Jay Leno says, "You can't stay mad at somebody who makes you laugh." And the great Bill Cosby says, "If you can find humor in anything, you can survive it." Researchers agree. Studies reveal that individuals who have a strong sense of humor are less likely to experience burnout and depression and they are more likely to enjoy life in general — including their marriage.

From *The Love List*, published by Zondervan. Copyright © 2002, Les and Leslie Parrott. All rights reserved. International copyright secured. Used by permission.

Anti-Covid-19 Precautions:

Worship services are being held with the small group (6 to 10 people) able to attend within precautions. Communion precautions are Pastor using hand sanitizer and setting cups on the rail to pick up. We spread out.

