



Lutheran Church of Dell Rapids  
701 N. Orleans Ave.  
Dell Rapids, SD 57022



NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
DELL RAPIDS, SD  
PERMIT #5



# The Shepherd's Staff

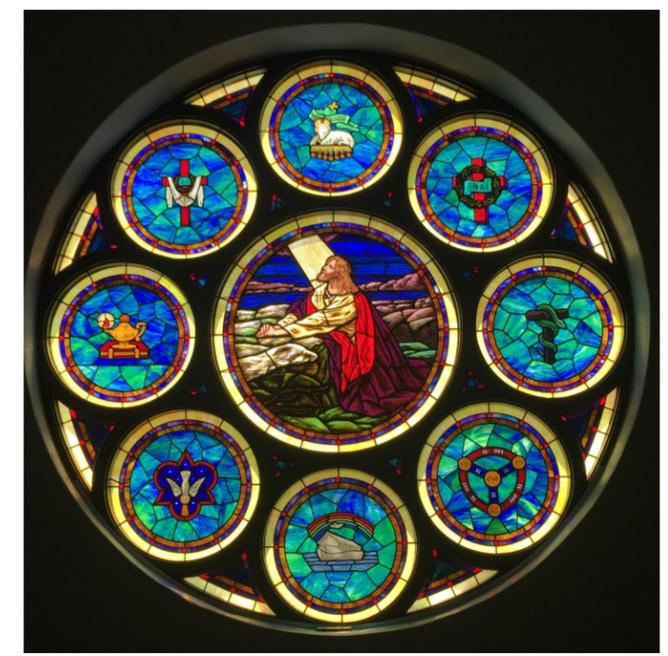
*Our Mission: Chosen to Serve † Sharing the Journey † Making Christ Known*

## June 2020

**Our Sunday Worship Service will be posted to Facebook and YouTube each Sunday morning by 9:30 am.**

**The Announcements and "At Home Conversation Handout" will be available to print off on our website at [lcdr-sd.org](http://lcdr-sd.org).**

**Office Hours**  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday  
8:30 am—5:00 pm



### Coming Up at LCDR

June 7, 14, 21, 28

9:30 am—Worship Service Online

10:30 am—Coffee & Conversations via Zoom



## Worship at LCDR in June Continues Online

In order to keep each other safe, the LCDR Church Council decided to continue to follow CDC guidelines and not begin in-person worship again until we've had at least two weeks of steadily declining numbers of Covid-19 cases in our area.

For the month of June, we will continue to provide a worship service each Sunday morning, available online on our Facebook page and YouTube channel. Printed sermons will be mailed to anyone who requests them. Our leaders will continue to follow the data and consider worship options again at our June Council meeting.

Church staff will be in office more beginning in June, but we do ask - for their safety and for yours - that if you come in to talk with them, you (and they) will wear a protective mask.

We do know that this pandemic and the cautions we observe will someday come to an end, we just don't know when. Until then, please look out for the welfare of your neighbor, and please be safe!

## Lutheran Church of Dell Rapids

701 N. Orleans Ave., Dell Rapids, SD 57022  
Office Hours: 8:30 am-5:00 pm 428-3197  
[www.lcdr-sd.org](http://www.lcdr-sd.org) Like Us on Facebook!

### Senior Administrative Pastor

Jeff Sorenson      lcdrpastor@siouxvalley.net  
359-8728

### Associate Pastor

Eldon Thurow      dethurow@aol.com  
695-0676

### Office Administrator

Keri LeBrun      lcdr@siouxvalley.net

### Youth & Family / Worship

Hans Lundquist      lcdryouth@siouxvalley.net  
359-0591

### Children's Education

Darcie Kringen      lcdrdarcie@siouxvalley.net

**Custodian/Maintenance:** Dave Bredlow

**Treasurer:** Lisa Wilber

**Financial Secretary:** Kristen Boyle

**Accompanist/Organist:** Rachel Pierson

**Choir Director:** Nancy Kelm

### 2020 Council Members

Rich Larson, President  
Jared Hohn, Vice-President  
Bob Harms, Secretary  
Lisa Wilber, Treasurer  
Gary Croon, Julie Wynja, Amy Ahlers, Beverly Rieck, Tony Siemonsma, Grant Olson, Kurt Peppel, Lee Weidauer, Olive Prasek

### Financial Snapshot for April 2020

Monthly Total Income Goal:	\$28,204.17
April Thankoffering:	\$27,118.95
April Expenses:	\$29,249.53
<b>YTD through April:</b> Income	<b>\$109,613.96</b>
Estate Income	\$9,333.33
Expenses	\$29,249.53
	<b>\$1,267.88</b>

### Building Fund:

April Income	\$5,258.00
Building Fund Balance	\$13,395.00
Remaining Loan	\$31,668.31

7.5% of Offering is given to our Synod monthly

## A PASTORAL LETTER FROM OUR BISHOP ABOUT RE-OPENING FOR WORSHIP

South Dakota Ministry Leaders,

In the last weeks, many congregations, and quite possibly your own ministry site, have had discussions about how or when to open up again for in-person worship. On Friday, May 22nd, President Trump declared houses of worship to be "essential," and called for them to be allowed to re-open immediately. In South Dakota, our Governor never closed our churches, so nothing has changed in our situation.

We agree with our President on several points. The worship and ministry that happen through our communities of faith are essential. We do provide essential services, delivering food and hygiene kits, mourning with people as they grieve, and proclaiming God's promise of resurrection to a broken world.

In his address, President Trump also stated that he trusts faith leaders, saying "ministers, pastors, rabbis, imams, and other faith leaders will make sure that their congregations are safe as they gather and pray." That trust places responsibility on you and your community's decision makers to determine WHEN and HOW it would be safe to gather in person once again. What is safe in another community may not be safe for your own community.

Our guidance from the synod has not changed. We strongly recommend that you wait to gather again in person until you know that the risk of transmission is much lower. It is scientifically proven that large group gatherings and singing bear a high risk for infection. We urge you to talk with medical professionals in your community, who can share current information and recommend best practices.

The essential ministry that you undertake has certainly continued. Church buildings might have been locked, but ministry in Christ's name is well and alive, and dare we say, has expanded exponentially. Well done, good and faithful servants, for adapting promptly to these ever-changing circumstances. Thank you for your faithfulness in continuing to be the body of Christ, the manifestation of love that is the church, for our world that needs to hear Good News. In your discussions with each other, please be patient, kind, and loving. Trust that your fellow leaders have good intentions, and try to understand them when you disagree. We hope you remember that we are available to be a partner in your conversations, if you desire. While we cannot tell you what to do, we most certainly can walk alongside of you as you wrestle with tough decisions. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us, as it is our priority to talk with you about concerns or questions you may have. ...

Be guided by love in the midst of temptation, be quick to listen but slow to speak and slow to anger, and care for the vulnerable in your midst.

Peace be with you,

**South Dakota Synod, ELCA Bishop Constanze Hagmaier**

items purchased fall within budget plan or not. They also presented a plan for doing bid processes for larger item expenditures. This will give consistency to the bid process and allow timely council oversight of bids. Discussion occurred regarding these items. They will present a written policy of these proposals to the council members at next month's meeting for approval.

SBA loan (Payroll Protection Program) - As reported above, the money was received in early May 2020. This will become a grant if documentation shows that the money was used to maintain salaries for 8 weeks. Lisa is doing the documentation for that process.

Date/Agenda for Council Retreat - Need for council retreat was discussed. Motion made and carried to have council retreat on July 14 from 6-9 pm. The usual council meeting for July will be on July 15 at 7 pm.

### New Business

Update with Covid 19 restrictions - Discussion of when or how to resume in person worship. Pastor Sorenson has developed a worksheet of discussion points and procedure proposal for return to in person worship. This was reviewed and is attached to the minutes. Lee presented a graph of the Covid cases in the Minnehaha county region and South Dakota as a state. The number of cases is still increasing in the Minnehaha county region and the entire state and are projected to peak during June 2020. Lee will update this information to council members weekly. After discussion, it was moved and carried that we do not resume in person worship during June 2020. We can resume in person worship, perhaps in outdoor setting, after seeing a two-week flattening or downturn in Covid cases in our region and state. This is consistent with CDC guidelines for resuming group activities.

The Minnehaha county guide of persons age 65 and older to be home and avoid groups of 10 or more has been lifted. Pastors can resume more office time as it feels safe. Will practice social distancing guidelines and be wearing masks when in conversation with others.

Equipment for Outdoor worship - There is need for good outdoor speakers for use for outdoor services and activities. Will ask Matt Tudor to review and obtain. This equipment can also be used for many outdoor youth activities in the future, so will have on going use. The cost is expected to be about \$2000 and will be funded with designated fund money.

Church Mutual grant - Our insurance company is offering grant money in the range of \$1000-2000 for use with ministry outreach that LCDR sponsors (I.e. Church on the Street, Banquet, etc). After discussion, it was moved and carried that we try to apply for the grant. Rich will pursue the grant. (Note - the next morning Rich found out that the grant process had been suspended due to

large amount of applications already received and therefore not now available).

Election site - LCDR fellowship hall has been asked to be election site for election this June. This site has already been listed in legal notices in the newspaper. The election officials of the county have provided more sanitation equipment and will have social distancing guidelines for the election. We can have that space not used after the election for 72 hours and then sanitize well. Motion made and carried to allow the fellowship hall to be used for the election site.

### Committee Reports

Parish Education - There will be no Vacation Bible school this summer due to Covid 19 precautions.

Property Committee - The HVAC project of the chapel is completed. The drywall repair of the ramp area is done. The carpet cleaning project is done. AAA lawn care will do lawn mowing and care this summer. There is an area on the flat roof of the fellowship hall that has a leak and needs repair. One proposal for entire roof replacement was obtained. Will research further whether that needs to be done or if can do smaller repair project.

Worship/Music - Hans is writing a liturgy that can be used in the future for worship

Youth and Family Committee - Have had discussion regarding the deposits persons have already made for camp and trips. Will not refund but keep and use in the future for those youth.

Technology - The laptop for Lisa's use for treasurer business is now here.

Announcements - Next council meeting is June 17, at 7 pm.

Submitted. Robert Harms, Council secretary.



## LCDR CONGREGATION COUNCIL MINUTES April 15, 2020

### Guest Comments

Steve Munk gave property committee report at this time. Cleaning of the carpet in the sanctuary, the entrance hallway, and the pew pads was done recently. The cost was a bit less than was bid. Painting of the hallway in the stairway down to St. Peter's hall and the ramp area has been done. Painting of the office hallway of the sanctuary entrance and the hallway to the fellowship hall is being done. The chapel heating and air conditioning project has been done. Programmable thermostats with two heating zones; one in the chapel and another for the chapel meeting room.

Pastor Report – Pastor Sorenson is doing most work from home. Pastor Thurow is also doing work from home. Both pastors attended a peer mentoring workshop in early March for newly ordained pastors and recently retired pastors. Both will be doing mentoring in our church conference. Pastor Thurow has been making phone contacts with all members age 65 and above.

### Unfinished Business

Security Committee/Emergency Preparedness – On hold.

Oversight of expenditures – No meeting. All staff is being careful to expend only for items that are necessary.

Council Retreat – This was originally scheduled for April 19. After discussion, is placed on hold and future date will be determined.

### New Business

SBA loan – This is the Payroll Protection Program funded at the federal level. The council Executive committee approved that Lisa make application. That application was mailed yesterday. The program parameters were reviewed by Lisa and Grant. The amount applied for was \$42,500, which is 8 weeks of salary plus 25%. Motion made and carried to approve the loan application to Small Business Administration for Payroll Protection Program loan for \$42,500 and to seek to meet all the requirements of the Payroll Protection Program so that the loan will be converted to a grant after 8 weeks of maintaining payroll funding.

Updates with Covid-19 restrictions – Pastors are working from home as much as possible. Church service recording coordinated by Hans with limited in person contacts to produce. Will continue with Keri's and Dave's usual hours in order to comply with Payroll Protection Program of SBA. There is no timetable available now for resumption of church service attendance or other activities.

### Committee Reports

Parish Education – It is doubtful if VBS can occur this year, but not yet finally determined.

Stewardship – First quarter giving report will be mailed later this week. Rich and Pastor Jeff are preparing the letter.

Property/Chapel - Report given earlier by Steve Munk  
Worship/Music - Looking at a new worship service format possibility.

Youth and Family Team – There will be no camps at Lutheran Outdoors facilities this year. Can do two sessions of confirmation camp next summer for this year's and next year's confirmation groups. There are 4 confirmation sessions left for this year and Pastor Jeff is preparing home materials to be used for completion of those sessions. Currently evaluating whether the youth trip to California can occur this summer. That decision is pending.

Technology – The new server is in. The old server is at computer service center and they will try to recover past data.

Wellness Ministry – They did meet April 7. Have started the 'Coffee and Conversation' format by Zoom at 10:30 on Sunday mornings.

Announcements – The next council meeting will be May 20, 7:00 PM.

Submitted. Robert Harms.

## LCDR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES May 20, 2020

Pastor's Reports - Pastor Eldon is in the process of calling all LCDR members age 65 and above. He is nearly done making those calls and the calls have been appreciated and well received. He also is sending birthday cards. This is to maintain contacts with LCDR members. For the persons that are home bound and in assisted living or nursing home, he is trying to call twice monthly to maintain contact until he can resume in person visitations. Pastor Sorenson reported that the recorded Sunday services have been well received and many have been watched and forwarded to nonmembers of LCDR. Last Sunday, Baccalaureate for LCDR members graduating from high school was held in our parking lot setting. This went well. He is having much discussion with Hans to decide how to resume youth activities this fall. He received a request from the Bishop to serve on an Evangelical Outreach Committee that will advise groups supported by the South Dakota Synod such as Church on the Street. He will be on that committee.

### Unfinished Business

Security Committee/Emergency Preparedness – No report  
Oversight of Expenditures – Jared and Lisa presented preliminary report of how to oversee and approve budgeted items. This will require a more detailed line item yearly budget plan, which is felt to be appropriate for an organization of our size. Now budget items are in more general categories and it is difficult to decide if specific

## *From the Senior Pastor:*

### **Who Will Redeem This Mess We're In?**

This past Sunday a small group from our congregation were able to gather outdoors, at safe distances, for a blessing and congratulations for our graduating high school seniors. I'll share here some of what I offered for them.

These young men and women, through no fault of their own, have inherited a mess. What should have been a time of community celebration, family gatherings, farewells to classmates and teachers, and public accolades for their achievements has instead been boiled down to venturing out from the isolation of their homes, keeping a distance and the honking of horns in a church parking lot.

So who is going to fix this mess that we're in?

The gravity of this pandemic and its effect on us feels new, and awful. We've been caught by surprise, unprepared, and don't know what to do.

But history has a long view, and we've been here before. We need only to look back as far as our parents and grandparents to remember two world wars and a great depression. A generation before that our nation was torn apart and bloodied by a civil war. And in those times, it was young people, a next generation, who stepped up to redeem the mess and make for a better world than the one that they had inherited.

Our grandparents did that. And in a yet longer view of history, God's people have done that for millennia. That's why God made God's people in his image, gave us creativity, talents and abilities, and charged us with the care of his world. That's why when Christ, who had been sent into this world to redeem us from our sin, ascended back into heaven to be with his Father, he again charged the continuing, ongoing redemption of this world – to us!

To redeem something is to fix it. To repair what is broken. To give new life to what is dead and dying.

So, who will redeem this mess that we're in? Who will figure out a way to better guard our public health, and make it a national priority? Who will be our nations' conscience, insisting on care for the most vulnerable among us? Who will discern for us what is really most important, and help us let go what is not? Who will call us back to the love of neighbor that is Christ's great commandment?

I look to, and trust, our young people to be on the forefront of that work. I marvel at how God is already at work in their young lives, giving them abilities that I've long given up on learning. I both struggle with and treasure their impatience with what is, and their insistence that things can be better.

Congratulations, young men and women! I see God already at work in you, giving you hearts and hands and voices and passion for the redemption of this world, and the furtherance of God's perfected kingdom among us. Thanks be to God, for you! Amen.

~ Pastor Jeff Sorenson



### **From the Record Book:**

#### **80+ Birthday**

June 3: Doris Kirkeby  
June 10: Warren Lingbeck  
June 11: Delores McKee  
June 19: Luella Sandro  
June 21: Donna Thurow  
July 1: Jean Berge  
July 6: Jim Kahler  
July 7: Margaret Godsk  
July 9: Jim Pollmann  
July 26: Gloria Brown  
July 29: Delores Nebben

## From the Associate Pastor—

How are you doing, physically, mentally, and spiritually? I just heard a doctor say on the radio this morning, that in the midst of treating people with the Covid-19 virus, she is physically and mentally drained, but mostly spiritually drained. Her reason for saying this, is that she recognizes that God created us in God's own image. God created us human beings because God wanted someone like God to be able to relate to. This means that for us to feel renewed and refreshed we also need to be with God and with other people as we worship God. This pandemic has made it impossible for us to do this. With the isolation that many of the doctors patients are experiencing she feels the same spiritual drain that she sees in her patients. Paul tells us that when one part of the body is hurting the whole body is hurting. He of course is talking about the church, the body of Christ in the world today.

I have been convinced for some time that when we are hurting, whether mentally, physically or spiritually, that we all need to share this with others. When we do so that hurt is cut in half, because now someone else is sharing it with us. In the same way when we share a joy with another person that joy is doubled. Now we can share our joys and our sorrows over the internet and over the phone, but it is never the same as being physically with another person. God knows this, so God took on the human flesh of the person of Jesus and lived among us. Jesus called other people to be with him as he did his ministry here on earth. When Jesus had completed the task of paying the price for all of our sins on the cross he returned to the Father. But he did not leave us alone.

In John 14:16 Jesus says to us, "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you alone." Jesus was the first Advocate that God gave us. Jesus came to repair the broken relationship that we create with God through our sin. When Jesus had completed that task through the cross and his victory over all the powers of sin and death on Easter, he had the Father give us another Advocate. This Advocate is the Holy Spirit which we each received at our baptism. This Spirit is always with us and will never leave us alone, but the way that we most feel and recognize the Spirit's presence with us is through other people who are also filled with the Spirit. When we are unable to be together with our sister's and brother's in Christ we become spiritually drained.

During this time when we are unable to gather as the family of God to worship, we are in need of reading the word of God, meditating on it, and then talking with God about it. Jesus promises us that he will never leave us, but is always with us. We don't know at this time when it will be safe for us to gather together again. In the mean time we need to keep our self close to Jesus. As we gather to eat a meal we invite Jesus to come to be with us as we eat, by praying, "Come Lord Jesus, be our guest." We don't need to give Jesus this invitation just at a meal, but at all times of the day. Of course Jesus is always with us, but we need to pray that we will be open to recognizing his presence with us.

Come Lord Jesus be our guest. Your brother in Christ. Pastor Eldon

~Pastor Eldon



**Congratulations to Pastor Eldon as he celebrates the 50th Anniversary of his Ordination on June 2.**



## Coffee & Conversation Zoom Meeting



We will continue to have Coffee & Conversations each Sunday at 10:30 am via Zoom! Please log into the meeting to join us; this will be a way for us to stay connected with each other through this time when we must remain physically separated.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

What an interesting May we all had...one for the books for sure! We just came back from the farm for Memorial Day weekend and it was such a great weekend. We had a graduation and a celebration for some birthdays. We practiced social distancing as most of the time we spent outside, either around a fire or just in a circle, visiting and having good conversations.

The graduation on Saturday on the football field was a unique one for those 19 graduates but memorable for all. Sunday's activities started out with a family brunch, then a quick trip to Zesto for the best turtle sundae, then a cookout for my dad, brother and Ethan's birthdays. Again, all of us outside. The weather wasn't exactly perfect but since when doesn't it rain over Memorial Day? The rain just made for a more interesting time for the kids riding the dirt bikes and 4-wheelers. Hey, if you can't get muddy on the farm, then where can you?

We ended the evening bringing our potted flowers out to the cemetery. There's something comforting, walking around the cemetery and reminiscing about some of the memories we've had with those who have passed. We all enjoyed each others company, had some out-of-this-world food, but most of all, made some memories, especially for all the cousins. I'm hoping June will have something special (we've got 2 birthdays in our family again, so more than likely, YES!)

Blessings to you all, and I hope you have a great June...stay safe and healthy!

~Darcie

## Youth Ministries

Peace be with you dear friends,

Things are still so different from what they once were, and as summer begins we are reminded of this again. Days when we were supposed to be somewhere else, with other people, celebrating milestones and traditions have already come and gone. As I write this I can't help but look at my calendar and see today we should have been returning from Pine Ridge, and in a few weeks we should be headed to confirmation camp with our 8<sup>th</sup> graders, and a few weeks later we should be loading a bus to California with our High Schoolers.

Maybe you're looking ahead at other things too that were supposed to happen. When these reminders come, they are tough for me and it's ok if they are for you too. Even with some things returning, everywhere we look we are reminded that this is still not normal; we long to go back to familiarity. In Genesis, there is a story where Jacob runs away from his home for fear of his life and doesn't think he will ever be able to go back. He is unsure of the future and scared and anxious in the present. In the middle of all this, God says to him: "Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." (Gen 28:15). God does not and will not leave us even when things seem bleak.

Psalm 8 reads, "When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained; What is man that You take thought of him, And the son of man that You care for him? Yet You have made him a little lower than God, And You crown him with glory and majesty!" When you see the beauty of nature, be reminded of God's creative spirit. When you laugh at something a friend or family member says, be reminded of God's gift of relationship. When you cry, be reminded that God cries with you. When you look in the mirror, be reminded that you are made in God's image. And wherever you go, be reminded of God's amazing, never-ending, never-failing, and never-leaving love for you. We *will* be together again, but until that day, God grant you strength for today, hope for tomorrow, and peace through it all.

-Hans