



### Parish Contacts

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### Parish News

Edna Voss of Hadley celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations Edna!  
*"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace."* Numbers 6:24-26

A calendar of events will not be included in this issue as we remain closed.

The sermon and readings will continue to be emailed to those that I have email for. It can also be mailed if you call Cindy. You will be notified when the churches are open again.

Jordyn Gyberg of Zion will graduate this year from Adrian High School. At this time, a formal church recognition will not be held. Please hold up all seniors everywhere as they graduate in untraditional ways. If you get a chance to drive through Adrian after May 1 you will notice banners depicting each of the 45 graduates on the light poles.

Minnesota currently has a shelter-in-place order until May 4. It is not known what they will recommend after that. The CDC recommends gatherings of fewer than ten people, wear a face mask when outside your home, wash your hands frequently and practice social distancing. Please keep the faith and pray for all leaders across the nation.

*"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings should be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior."* 1 Timothy 2:1-3

### Options for TV worship services:

- Sunday, 9 am, channel 17 (local FOX) – Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, contemporary service with a band
- Sunday, 11 am, channel 13 (local ABC) – First Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, traditional service with organ



### May Bible verse:

*"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."*

Jeremiah 29:11



# MAY Birthdays

- 1 Shelly Ford (H)  
Navy Braun (H)
- 5 Janelle Veldhuisen (H)
- 10 Jett Veldhuisen (H)
- 13 Emma Johnson (H)
- 19 Landen Bonstetter (H)
- 24 Merlyn Inglett (Z)
- 25 Joyce Johnson (H)
- 28 Danielle Sonstegard (H)  
Myron Johnson (H)  
Harley Carlberg (Z)  
Ashley Velduisen (H)

*Please contact the office with any additions or corrections*

FIRST WE **OVERLOOK** EVIL.  
 THEN WE **PERMIT** EVIL.  
 THEN WE **LEGALIZE** EVIL.  
 THEN WE **CELEBRATE** EVIL.  
 THEN WE **PERSECUTE** THOSE  
 WHO STILL CALL IT EVIL

## Missionary Contact Information

**Zion & Hadley:** (Drop an email or note sometime)  
 Rev. Dr. Elisabeth Johnson  
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**ELCA World Hunger** - Send donations to: **ELCA Gift processing center, PO Box 1809 Merrifield, VA 22116-8009**, or give online with credit card at [www.elca.org/give](http://www.elca.org/give) (click on "Donate Now", then click drop-down box below dollar amounts for choices.)

**Lutheran Disaster Response** –For online giving, go to [www.ldr.org](http://www.ldr.org). Follow the links for the specific crisis to which you want to give.

## Shetek Lutheran Ministries

*"Christ-Centered Renewal & Learning for All Ages."*

Registration for the summer is open and even though there are currently so many unknowns we are still planning for a full summer program.

For details call 507-763-3567 or check out [www.shetek.org](http://www.shetek.org)



is our  
 refuge  
 and  
 strength,  
 a very  
 present  
 help in  
 trouble.

Psalm 46:1

### ELCA Mission Statement:

*"Marked with the cross of Christ forever, we are claimed, gathered, and sent for the sake of the world."*

### Southwestern Minnesota Synod Mission Statement:

*"God places us in cities, farms and towns together under one prairie sky. The Risen Christ surprises us with opportunities to plant God's Word in the world. Walking together in confidence, we cultivate life-giving congregations, nurture partner ministries, and cooperate in the life of the ELCA. By God's grace, together we have what we need."*

## To Tell the Truth

Last week two very different items crossed my path the same day. Seemingly unrelated until later when I had my “aha” moment of clarity.

While sending out the weekly sermon I read an email from the ELCA wanting the public to comment on “*A Draft Social Message on Government and Civic Engagement: Discipleship in a Democracy*”. I scanned the article and reviewed the survey. I made a mental note to forward this to the council presidents and Bob. No, I would not review this and comment. Not my concern I told myself.

Later that afternoon my sister in Colorado called to chat. As sisters do, we covered a lot of items about family, etc. and then she said “It’s all over our news that Smithfield is closed. Too bad the governor wouldn’t issue a shelter-in-place order.” Ummm...what? I then proceeded to inform her of what was really going on in which she replied, “They didn’t say any of that on the news!”

Later that night as I was mulling that conversation over in my head, I had my “aha” moment.

The ELCA wants us to take a social stand on government issues and to act where needed. How do we decide when there are injustices? Most of the time we get our information from the local and national news. How do we know if what they are reporting is the “whole” truth? **We don’t.**

Is the story my sister told an isolated incident? Today, unfortunately that is the normal. It sensationalizes stories for better ratings and money. What better way to do that than by featuring stories from only one viewpoint, who they decide is the “victim.”

Who should we focus our response on? This certainly has all of makings of a stance we should take. But which group has suffered the injustice?

Is it the workers and the plant? No. They are essential workers called to continue the food supply chain. Unfortunately, critical workers become sick whether they are medical, meat processing or grocery. It is incredibly sad indeed, but the CDC will make recommendations for improvements, not the general public. Workers in meat processing plants are getting paid even when the plant closes indefinitely.

Did the Republican Governor cause the whole problem? No. As essential workers they are not subject to a shelter-in-place order. It would not have stopped the spread. JBS is in Minnesota with a shelter-in-place order and they closed. What truth did the media use when airing that report? **None.**

The true innocent victim in this whole mess is not even mentioned. It gains little to no public sentiment and yet is the most crucial part of society – the American farmer. **This needs our immediate response.**

Kevin and I are pork producers that contract with Smithfield. The consequence of the shutdown is immense. Not only lost income but questions of what to do with hogs that you cannot sell are stressful for all producers. All livestock producers have strict rules they follow about the number of animals they have on site. New pigs are coming in, but the market ready hogs are still there. If you turn them out to open spaces like cattle yards they will sunburn. Or you can euthanize for massive losses. We are in a no-win situation.

For everyone else this pandemic is a once-in-a-lifetime event. For farmers it is just another blow in a long line of years of devastation.

Last week’s edition of *Market to Market* stated that farmers will lose an estimated 20 billion this year. Bankruptcies have risen every year for the last five years. The CDC has determined that farmers have the highest rate of suicide of all vocations. The average age of the farmer is nearly 60 and the young farmers will probably not survive this catastrophic event because they lack the built-up equity that older farmers have. Older farmers are remortgaging farmland once paid for.

We battle the spread of false information (cattle farts do not contribute to climate change), trade wars, market manipulation, and weather.

So, when the church calls us to social action, be a critical thinker not a knee-jerk-reaction type thinker led by manipulative media. You may be influenced to interfere in social injustices when there are none.

I guess I do have an opinion after all. I should be concerned about the injustices going on, only thing is...will anyone hear me...

Cindy Knips

## May Greetings by Deb Kroon

Here we are over a month into social distancing and things are just beginning to get rough. JBS in Worthington just closed and the positive COVID19 numbers have started to jump daily. As of today, I haven't heard that Adrian has any confirmed cases, but with JBS employees testing positive, it is a matter of time. As we listen to the news, things seem so dark. People out of work, long food lines, the future of businesses in question, church buildings closed. Is this the same world that just a few months ago ushered in 2020 with hope? It doesn't seem possible.

The future doesn't seem so bright right now, but isn't this what really determines who we are, what we are made of? A couple of weeks ago we celebrated Jesus' triumph over death. If He can beat death, shouldn't we trust Him to handle this? God's answer to COVID19 may not be what we want to hear or see, but now more than ever, we need to trust in God's timing and His will. He always has it under control.

A positive thing out of all of this is that people are slowing down. Parents and children are spending time together at home, interacting. The whole world really did need to slow down and maybe this is God's way of handling it.

With your extra time, enjoy nature. Spring is here! Sit outside in the sun and take in all of nature's songs. Spring! We have been given a gift, one that we receive each year, but today in 2020 take advantage of it, appreciate it! We still have our family, our neighbors, our friends. We can walk outside and twirl around enjoying the sun and warmer weather. Do it! Let God's world lift up your spirits.

Even though this spring and summer is going to look different, I believe it is God's wish for us to make the most of it. Drive around and honk at your neighbors. Put happy signs in your windows. We are called on to embrace the good things in our lives and not to dwell on the bad. Pick up your phone and call a church member and check in. You'll be surprised how good it makes you feel, and rest assured them too!

Let's try to keep as positive as possible. If you need to talk-pick up your phone and call me (507-360-7671). I'm home! Take each day as it comes and look for something good. Search for it if you have to but find one good thing. Remember your church as we stay at home. Stay positive and stay safe. This will pass and we will survive together, separately.

Jesus has risen! He has risen indeed!

## DEVOTION

### Scripture Reading: Romans 6:1b-11

*When the world says, "Give up," Hope whispers, "Try it one more time."* —Author unknown

Niccolo Paganini was a well-known and gifted 19<sup>th</sup>-century violinist. He was also well-known as a great showman with a quick sense of humor. His most memorable concert was in Italy with a full orchestra. He was performing before a packed house and his technique was incredible, his tone was fantastic and his audience dearly loved him.

Toward the end of his concert, Paganini was astounding his audience with an unbelievable composition when suddenly one string on his violin snapped and hung limply from his instrument. Paganini frowned briefly, shook his head, and continued to play, improvising beautifully.

Then to everyone's surprise, *a second string broke!* And shortly thereafter, a third!

Almost like a slapstick comedy, Paganini stood there *with three strings dangling from his Stradivarius!* But instead of leaving the stage, Paganini stood his ground and calmly completed the difficult number on the one remaining string.

This is a wonderful story, but in actuality, Paganini occasionally broke strings during a performance on purpose so he could further display his virtuosity.

What do you think is the lesson from this story?

There's no one correct answer, but, for me, the story reinforces the importance of *perseverance under duress*. It might have been easier for Paganini to walk off the stage and demand a different violin, disrupting the concert, or perhaps cancelling it altogether. But he didn't.

It's also a lesson in *courage*. It took courage for him to persist when he could not be at his best.

It's also a lesson in *humility*. Not being able to play at his best, he had to be willing to play as well as he could with only one string.

It is important to remember during this present crisis, that God knows how many strings we have at our disposal. God knows if we have four, three, two or only one. Perhaps we're in such a crisis that we feel as though we don't have any strings at all!

God knows and God understands. Let's just tell God that we are willing to serve God with as many "strings" as we have left, and we can also say the prayer below.

Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: Lord, I am out of strings. I am out of energy. I have nothing left. But what I have, I give to you. Amen.*



## TransformationPOWER

Just as the caterpillar becomes a butterfly,  
God transforms us from old to new.

*Directions: Cross out the backward letters. Write the remaining letters in order in the spaces below to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.*

Therefore, if \_\_\_\_\_ is in \_\_\_\_\_,  
the \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_:

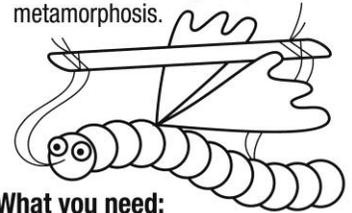
The \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_,  
the \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_!

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

Answer: anyone, Christ, new, creation, come, old, gone, new, here

# CHANGED!

Make this cute puppet to show and tell the amazing story of metamorphosis.



### What you need:

- Needle and string
- 12 small pom-poms
- Wooden craft stick
- Scissors
- Googly eyes
- Glue
- Coffee filter
- Markers

### What you do:

1. Sew pom-poms together to make a caterpillar body. Tie off that string.
2. Thread another string up through the first pom-pom, leaving 12 inches to dangle. Repeat with the ninth pom-pom, leaving two dangling strings.
3. Wrap those strings around opposite ends of the stick, adjusting their length to about 6 inches. Tie in place.
4. Glue on eyes.
5. Flatten the coffee filter and draw a symmetrical design on it. Pleat in the center to create wings.
6. Move the caterpillar puppet by holding the stick. Glue on the wings as you describe the transformation into a butterfly.

