



# The Mountain Top Messenger

ZION LUTHERAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH, ASHLAND, WI JUNE 2020

Well here it is June, who could have imagined that things in this country could possibly be in any more turmoil than when I wrote to you in May. The COVID 19 virus pandemic is still an issue and as of a couple days ago more than 100,000 American's have succumb to the virus, great controversy still exists as to whether we should be locked up in our house, or out and about, many places of business and places of worship as well as schools are still locked down, and now to make it all the more confusing it doesn't even seem to rate 2 minutes on the evening news because of all the unrest over racial tensions and police brutality. There are protests in the street and unfortunately in many places those have become horribly violent and destructive. If people were thinking last month that it was a sign of the end times, with what is happening now one might think we are but moments away from the Lord's return.

So here it is, the question of the day, or at least of the month; would that be a bad thing? I pray that your answer is absolutely not, not only would it not be a bad thing, it would be the greatest thing that could ever happen in your lifetime. We pray it every Sunday, "Come Lord Jesus", we pray it before meals, it is what the entire church has been waiting for since the day our Lord ascended. Now, I am not willing to tell you that today, or even tomorrow is the day, I cannot and will not place a date and time, I can't. That would be going against scripture. *"But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only."* Matthew 24:36. And while I cannot tell you the time, I can give you this assurance, each and every minute that goes by brings us closer to His return. And what a glorious day it will be. For some further reassurance, read Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians, here is a small excerpt: <sup>15</sup> *For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.* <sup>16</sup> *For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.* <sup>17</sup> *Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.* <sup>18</sup> *Therefore encourage one another with these words. (1 Thessalonians 4:15-18).* So, with all of that having been said you may ask what should I do in these times, how should I act, how should I respond? I would direct you to watch if you haven't the Wednesday evening service from June 3<sup>rd</sup>. I speak of what our response should be in these times as spoken through the apostle Paul.

(cont. on next page)



**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**1111-11TH AVE WEST**  
**ASHLAND, WI 54806**  
**715-682-6075**

Sunday Worship Service 9:00am in-church service and live streamed  
Wednesday Evening Service - live streamed (a more in-depth look at Sunday's service)  
Sunday School 10:15am (Sept.-May)  
Bible Studies—currently cancelled.

**Pastor Rick Williams - 715-209-0479 Office Hours: Mon. 8-5 Tues. off**  
**Wed. 12-8 Thurs. 8-5 Fri. 8-12** Please call ahead if you need to speak with Pastor.

**Office Secretary Lynn Ladd 715-682-6075 Office Hours M-W 8-3**  
Days and times may change upon need of work.

**Church President: John Pruss 715-292-4825 Head Elder: Darryl Warren 715-492-0488**

**Little Friends of Jesus Child Care Center: 715-682-5185**

**LFOJ Administrator: Karyn Leino 715-682-6075**

**Website** [www.zionashland.org](http://www.zionashland.org) **E-mail** [secretary@zionlutheranashland.com](mailto:secretary@zionlutheranashland.com) **Facebook**

*(cont. from front page)*

The main point is as follows: *Romans 12: <sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. <sup>17</sup> Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup> If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup> Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." <sup>20</sup> To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

With that being said, I can hardly wait to see what I will be typing about for July. What I do pray each and every day is that all of you stay safe and stay healthy. If you feel comfortable join us for worship, if you are the concerned please stay at home, I do not want anyone feeling obligated to come to worship just because some others are. We all have our own comfort levels, and I do not want anyone to feel pressured in attending. Remember if you do something out of obligation it becomes a work. If you have the ability, join us online, you can watch anytime. We have become digital, we are on Facebook, YouTube, the church website, and we have an app for Android and iPhone. So please be safe, be health, and be in love with Jesus.

And now may the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you, may the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

In His service,

Pastor Rick



### PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING

For good test results, treatment, positive thinking, healing, and comfort during cancer treatments, for those suffering from addiction, mental illness and for healing, strength, comfort, and peace for family we pray for:

<i>Linda Larson-Nelson</i>	<i>Tim Smith</i>	<i>Bob Heggie</i>
<i>Kevin Heggie</i>	<i>Kate Smith</i>	<i>Alice Balmer</i>
<i>Brad Prill</i>	<i>David Kaarre</i>	<i>Mary Siefers</i>
<i>Mary Bullis</i>	<i>Jim Bullis</i>	<i>Mike Dimich</i>
<i>Lloyd Koosmann</i>	<i>Theresa Koosmann</i>	<i>Helen Korpela</i>
<i>Marty Kaarre</i>	<i>Penny Mattson</i>	<i>Penny Larson</i>
<i>Rebecca Gurske</i>	<i>David Gustafson</i>	
<i>Angie Guski</i>	<i>LeAnn Billing</i>	
<i>Ellen Hudgeson</i>	<i>Francis Balmer</i>	
<i>Andrea</i>	<i>Jim Albright</i>	<i>Jennifer Rutter</i>

*and those in our hearts.*

### PRAYERS for Homebound, Assisted Living, Nursing Home

Those who aren't able to attend common worship that they would find comfort knowing that the Lord is with them.

<i>Walt Schutte</i>	<i>Arlene Zimmerman</i>
<i>Violet Basina</i>	<i>Madge Houle</i>
<i>Donna Graves</i>	<i>Nancy Zehe</i>

### PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION

For our full-time troops and public servants, for travel, missionaries, and for peace and protection for families. *David Wright, Emily Melecha, Tucker Melecha, Jordan Thimm, Andrew Pruss*



## CHURCH NOTICE!

Since 500 people can safely be in Home Depot... This week's services will be held in plumbing. Bring your Bible.

**Here's what happens** when you have an introvert and extrovert in the same house for a long period of time.

Copy this link and try it out:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5JX4xfZqdEg&feature=youtu.be>



### The Restless Soul

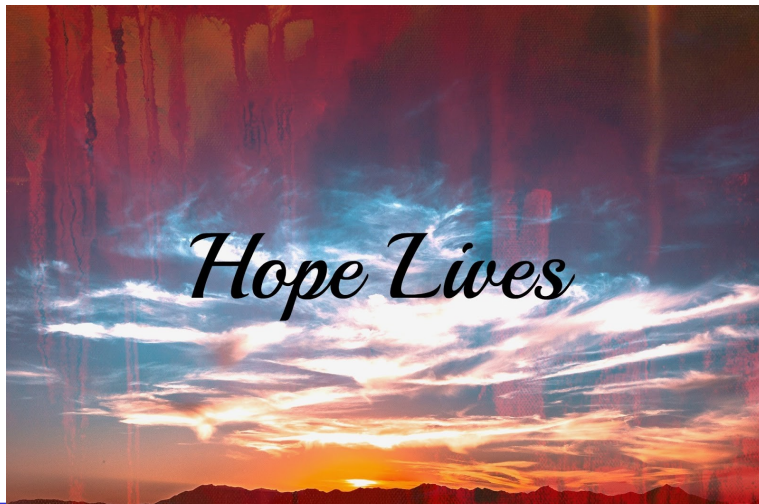
For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him (Psalm 62:5).

Researchers tell us that adults today don't get enough sleep. The advent of electricity means we stay up later than our ancestors. Well into the night we are watching television, reading, or using our computers. "Early to bed and early to rise" doesn't seem to fit in with today's lifestyle. Consequently, sleep deprivation and fatigue are common among us. As a society, we just aren't getting enough physical rest.

Just as common are the people who can find no rest for their souls. Many carry burdens of guilt, hatred, anger, or prejudice. Some are grieving. Others are unable to forgive, whether it is themselves or someone else. Day after day they search for inner peace and it just isn't there. They look for hope and can't find it.

Do you have a restless soul? Take to heart the words of Jesus, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest ... I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Matthew 11:28, 29b). Jesus invites us all to come and rest in Him.

Prayer: Thank You, Lord Jesus, that we can say, "I came to Jesus as I was, So weary, worn, and sad; I found in Him a resting place, And He has made me glad" (LSB 699, verse 1). In Your name we pray. Amen.



**Jesus, we see you  
calm the storm  
(Matthew 8:23-27)**

The situation is beyond  
us, Jesus

It feels out of control and  
dangerous

We are swamped

We are perishing

Save us, Jesus

The waves of news and  
need overwhelm us

But not you

You calm the storm

You bring good out of  
this great need

You hear our prayer

Glory to your Holy Name.

Amen.

## WHY THE PIANO?

During the live-stream services, why is the piano being played and not the beautiful organ? There is a reason. Right now we have a microphone right behind the piano to pick up the sound. There is no sound that comes out directly from the organ. Attempts have been made to get sound from the organ speakers but none have worked. There isn't a loud enough sound or then there is interference. The Allen Organ Company, where our organ was purchased was contacted. The organ only has input connections, no output which we need. BUT, there is a kit. Pastor took a picture of the organ information that was needed and sent it to Minneapolis for them to figure out which kit we would need. We haven't heard back yet on a cost, when it could be installed or who needs to do it. We are working on it and we would like to get the organ playing during the live stream services. Patience is the key word for this undertaking.



**NEXT TIME A STRANGER  
TALKS TO YOU WHEN  
YOU'RE ALONE, JUST  
LOOK AT THEM SHOCKED  
AND WHIPSER,  
"You can see me?"**



Now that's how it should be done. Right? The grass is growing fast and looks so nice after it has been mowed. Don't you need some fresh air? Why not sign up and mow the church's lawn. There is a riding mower for the large areas. Call Nick at 715-682-0385 if you would be willing to help out one day. It would be greatly appreciated.



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**"Maybe you caught your virus  
from our computer, Daddy."**



## Scoop on the Stoop

Fund for Front Entrance repairs

As of April 1, 2020 the Financial Secretary, upon request from the Chairman Of the Board of Trustees reported that donations to the fund for the repair of the front entrance stoop totaled \$2,987.00

The total project was contracted at \$7,080.00 with a stipulation of the possibility of some added costs should the cost of concrete increase in 2020.

We paid an earnest fee of \$708.00 in the fall of 2019 to be put on the spring schedule for 2020.

At this point this is where the project funding stands.

Projected cost: \$7,080.00

Down Payment - \$ 708.00

Donations to Date - \$2,987.00

Unfunded Balance **\$3,394.00**

THANK  
YOU

**TRUSTEES**

**The project is complete as you see and everyone likes the new layout.**

Nick Jarvela  
Chairman, Board of Trustees

**WEDNESDAY SERVICES**  
**Will be live-streamed through**  
**June. It will re-evaluated at**  
**the beginning of July.**

**Drive-up communion, every other**  
**Sunday: June 14, 28 July 12**

**Do not drive between the bell tower and**  
**the church . It is too narrow NOW.**

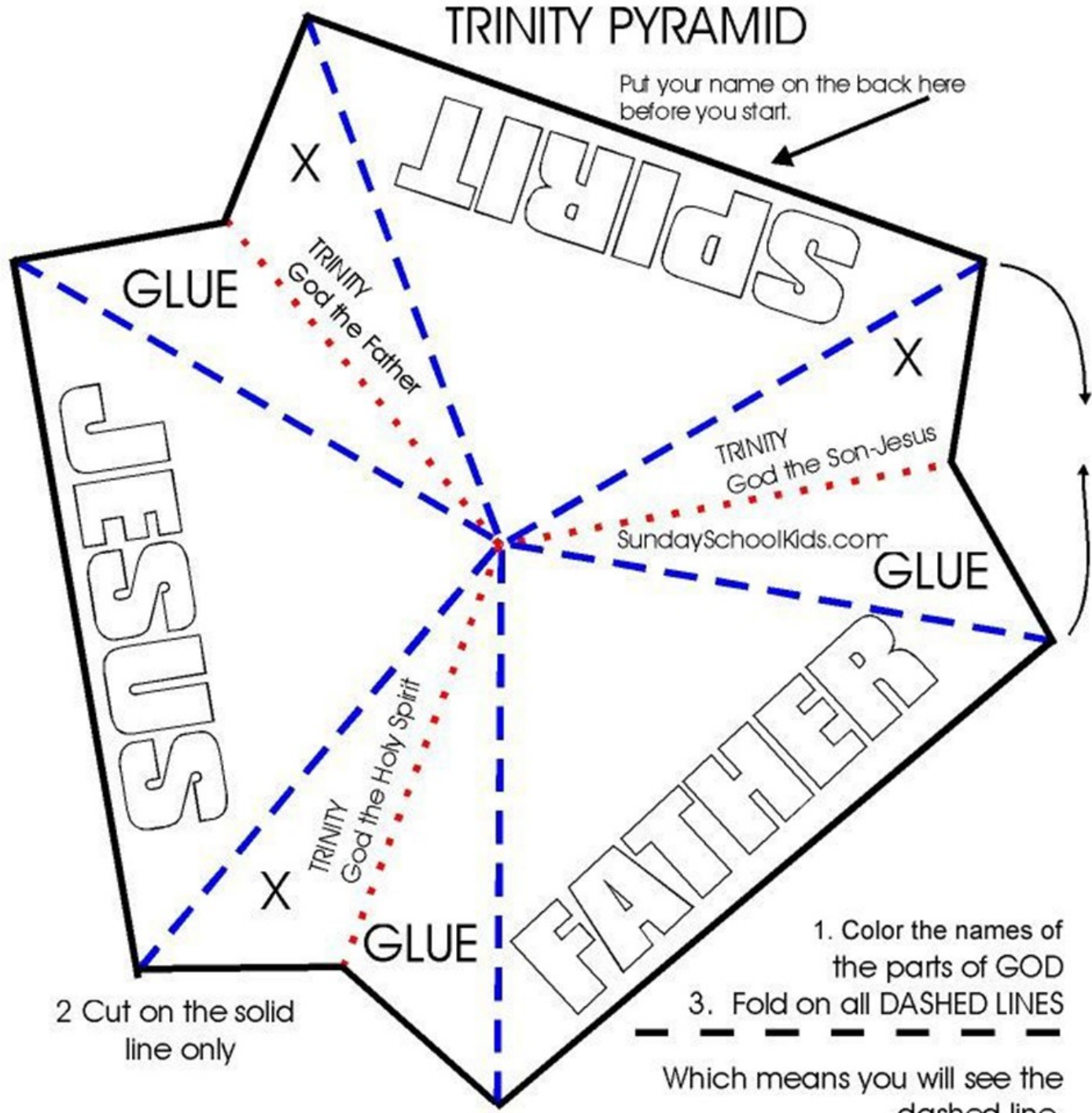
"Giving" budget per week \$3262 Bi-weekly \$6524  
May 3<sup>rd</sup> and May 10<sup>th</sup> \$6545  
May 17<sup>th</sup> and May 24<sup>th</sup> \$4435





# TRINITY PYRAMID

Put your name on the back here before you start.



2 Cut on the solid line only

1. Color the names of the parts of GOD
3. Fold on all DASHED LINES

Which means you will see the dashed line.

4. INSIDE FOLD on all dotted lines which means the dotted line will be hidden after you glue to the closest X

5. Glue on the 3 words GLUE. Press GLUE to nearest X.  
(Bring the dashed lines together with the dotted line hidden inside and press together from the inside))

# The Day of Pentecost

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Acts 2:4 (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



I	Z	X	B	Q	D	M	T	A	U	J	C	W	V	K	E	R	S	H	F	L	P	G	N	O	Y
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 18-25-10-24-6 \_\_\_\_\_
- 13-1-24-6 \_\_\_\_\_
- 20-1-21-21 \_\_\_\_\_
- 19-25-10-18-16 \_\_\_\_\_
- 20-1-17-16 \_\_\_\_\_
- 19-25-21-26 \_\_\_\_\_
- 18-22-1-17-1-8 \_\_\_\_\_
- 18-22-16-9-15 \_\_\_\_\_
- 21-9-24-23-10-9-23-16 \_\_\_\_\_
- 19-16-9-14-16-24 \_\_\_\_\_

The Christian holiday of **Pentecost**, which is celebrated the 49th day (the seventh Sunday) after Easter Sunday,<sup>[2]</sup> commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, as described in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2:1–31).

The holiday is also called "White Sunday" or "Whitsunday" or "Whitsun", especially in the United Kingdom, where traditionally the next day, Whit Monday, was also a public holiday (since 1971 fixed by statute on the last Monday in May). The Monday after Pentecost is a legal holiday in many European countries.



# Pentecost

## Acts 2



V T L K Q T Y M H J X C J J T S A M W X  
 H K R D P G I Q S L E K M N P X H T K P  
 C S E U G N O T J J P M T I U H Y R N D  
 S U S E J V F P B E E I R I T M F O X O  
 J U U L X V O J E Y K I F S T E R Z S E  
 B F R N M O E T X T T C U D U L K P P E  
 V H R R C K Q Q L W E S O K F A H D D D  
 N C E F K X E P G U W R G K J S P M Z M  
 P R C V P V C U I C L U A D O U D Y A U  
 H U T K Z S G B G Y G O R E Y R A T X L  
 L H I G Q R L I Z V P I S J F E Q C O Z  
 B C O U S S X O G H Q Y F O Q J W Q Q Q  
 E V N R O V U S F J T T F S G C X J Y K  
 X U H X D I H U F F F J H E X E N C I J  
 B R P E Z Y F Q I T I L M G A W L R O L  
 R C H Y O Q E F Q Z S R M U Q S P Y W V  
 H A Q L T L G A Q C E M E R N G T Y S W  
 S E L O C J L V V J I A K R Z V F M B N  
 C B W H R C A O R R W D I S Y A D L X F  
 U B P S W W B P W U Z D H R N D B C P Z

JESUS  
 DAYS  
 SPIRIT  
 TONGUES

RESURRECTION  
 FEAST  
 PETER  
 FIRE











FIFTY  
 HOLY  
 JERUSALEM  
 CHURCH

## Order the Events of the Pentecost

Order the Activities in Acts 2-3 of the early church.

Order

Events

- \_\_\_ 1. A. Crippled man healed by Peter and John 
- \_\_\_ 2. B. A mighty wind filled the house 
- \_\_\_ 3. C. Peter preached in the temple about Jesus 
- \_\_\_ 4. D. 3,000 souls were baptized 
- \_\_\_ 5. E. The Holy Ghost filled the people in the house 
- \_\_\_ 6. F. The day of Pentecost 
- \_\_\_ 7. G. People in the house started speaking in different languages 
- \_\_\_ 8. H. People sold their possessions and joined the church 
- \_\_\_ 9. I. Peter preaches about Jesus' resurrection on the day of Pentecost 
- \_\_\_ 10. J. People praised God 

Written: Holy Week April 2020

**“On that day the Lord will whistle for the fly that is at the end of the streams of Egypt, and for the bee that is in the land of Assyria.” Isaiah 7:18**

In December, I read this verse in the Book of Isaiah. Somehow this power of the Lord’s whistle reminded me that every element of nature and life itself is under his control. The bedrock truth of this reality has become even more profound within the past two months.

While Herb and I were en route to Dubai, we noticed in Amsterdam the passengers boarding a flight for China were all wearing face masks. Even the airport workers in this area were gowned in hazmat-type gear. There was a February-rumor in the air that a virus was taking hold in our world... starting with China.

Sure enough within weeks after normal living with Joe and family in Dubai, everything was turned upside down as the coronavirus swept across the globe. Dubai responded and required that we keep a “social distance” from others, and wear face masks. Now it is Holy Week, and new rules demand we stay in the house unless we gain permission to go a grocery store or pharmacy. How a “microscopic-predator” can pack such control is amazing and scary.

Last Sunday was Palm Sunday. When Jesus approached Jerusalem, he asked for a lowly donkey to ride into the city. The amazing thing was that crowds gathered to greet him, waved palms of celebration, and threw coats on the road to welcome the king. But what is even more scary...is that five days later this same Jesus was mocked and beaten and hung on a cross to die. The God who whistles to the fly did not flinch and call off the “death” of His Son. He knew something greater was happening on that cross... that would turn the world upside down.

Yes, we know the Easter story. At first light on Sunday a few curious souls ran to the tomb where Jesus laid, and they found the stone was rolled away and an angel was keeping guard: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” Was it a whistle that rolled the stone, or did the angel move the boulder? It doesn’t matter...it happened, and Jesus was no longer dead: He was alive!! The final straw of earthly despair was broken, and God revealed that He is the all-powerful living Word.



So, folks, as we navigate these crazy days of lockdowns, masks, cabin fever, doubt, fear, isolation, silence... let us tune our ears to hear the whistle of God for when it is His time, He will call off this virus and heal our land and restore our lives. For Jesus died for everyone, and God will not sell short this great sacrifice of His Beloved Son. His love is unconditional, and He will keep His eternal promise to care for His sheep. Let us not be scared, but rather be amazed that God is in-charge of this right-side-up or upside-down world: Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!! Happy Easter to all! A. Ellis

# Statement on the death of George Floyd and the ensuing riots

Discriminatory treatment of human beings on the basis of race is irrational evil and results in evil. It is folly, which can produce only anger and hatred. “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” America’s original sin of legal racism, the denial of human rights based on race, has reaped the whirlwind.

God’s Word rejects racism. “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). “No one is righteous, no, not one” (Romans 3:10). “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). All are equally created by God. All are equally accountable to God. The sins of all are equally atoned for by Christ. All are equally precious to God. Racial animosity is the result of sin and is sin in itself. Racism is not acceptable in the church. Jesus Himself bids us love our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:31) and did so precisely while rejecting racial preference (cf. Good Samaritan, Luke 10:25–37).

Unity in the church according to the Augsburg Confession is defined by Article VII: “For it is sufficient for the true unity of the Christian church that the Gospel be preached ... and that the sacraments be administered in accordance with the divine Word.” Christ and His gifts bring unity and equity in the church. Racial discrimination in or by the church is sin. Racial conflict in our nation calls every Christian to introspection. “It is time for judgment to begin at the household of God” (1 Peter 4:17). “Righteous indignation” without self-reflection and repentance is meaningless, or worse, hypocrisy.

The one who grievously and unjustly took the sacred gift of life from George Floyd — resulting in a charge of 3rd-degree murder — will, ironically, be given the very thing he denied his victim, due process of the law. Justice must be meted out according to the law. Others may be charged.

We weep for George Floyd, for his family and loved ones because he was robbed of life. We weep for our nation. We weep for those across our nation who believe their only recourse is destruction. We weep for police officers everywhere, who carry out their honorable vocations with courage and goodwill but find their task infinitely more challenging and dangerous in the wake of the sad events in Minneapolis. We pray for the safety of all and the welfare of those who have lost property and livelihood. We pray for the police who must stand against mayhem. We support the First Amendment rights of the peaceful protestors.

(cont. from previous page)

We deplore injustice. We deplore destruction, robbery and doing physical harm to others. That, too, is injustice. We plead to citizens and governments of this nation for communities beset by poverty, crime and injustice. We plead for rational and unifying policies that will end injustices and address social breakdown, lack of economic access, and other factors that fuel anger, hatred and dissension.

We shall pray, but we shall do even more. We shall follow the ancient mandate of the prophet of Yahweh: “He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8).

And we shall proclaim Christ, “in season and out of season” (2 Timothy 4:2). “For one will scarcely die for a righteous person — though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die — but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:7–8).

*If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

*Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.*

*Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him (Colossians 3:1–17 ESV).*

Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison

President

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

SUNNY DAY

