March 27, 2020
Due to Governor Gordon’s recommendations and out of love and concern for our neighbors, Our Savior Lutheran Church has opted to continue to suspend services and activities. Please continue to check our website (www.oursaviortorrington.org) for updates, sermons, and abbreviated services as we at Our Savior Lutheran Church strive to carry out the mission and ministry the Lord has entrusted to us. The monthly newsletter will be posted on the website and hard copies will be available for pick-up at the church towards the end of the week. For the time being, I am encouraging you to make an appointment to receive the Lord’s Supper as an individual or family unit by calling my cell phone. Appointments may be made Monday through Thursday from 8:00-Noon, Monday evenings from 6:00-8:00p.m., and Sundays from 10:00a.m.-Noon. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you or someone you know is in need of spiritual care or assistance of any kind.

Pastor Firminhac

Peace of Mind

There is something we all yearn for in life, and that is peace of mind. We see commercials on television all the time that we should invest our money with people and in places that will give us peace of mind. There are times when we have something bothering us physically that is relatively painless and isn’t debilitating, but we go to the doctor anyway for peace of mind.

Ever since man fell into sin this thing we call “peace” is elusive. The main reason it is so elusive is because we try to satisfy our craving for peace by looking for it in all the wrong places. Even we, the redeemed children of God, have to confess we have looked high and low in this world to find peace apart from Christ.

I don’t have to tell you we are living in some very trying and difficult times. During these times we often look to things other than Jesus Christ for peace and then quickly see them exposed for what they are – frauds. I read a troubling article last week that said during the week of March 23 more people died of suicide in Tennessee than COVID-19.

The things people normally turn to give them a sense of peace in a sinful world are now letting them down in the midst of the chaos and uncertainty of this pandemic. Are you now, because of COVID-19, going through a point in your life where the things you have looked to find peace are disappearing? If they are, let us repent, and look to God’s holy Word to bring us comfort.

Jesus said these words in John 14:27, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.” There is nothing in this world that can give us the peace Jesus gives. Only Jesus can give us the assurance we are loved by the most important person in this world, which is God himself. Only Jesus can assure us our sins are forgiven. Only Jesus can assure us that the God who created all things will be with us always in spite of how
good or bad things are in our life. Only Jesus can assure you that no matter what troubling situation you endure in your life He will work it for good. Lastly, only Jesus can assure you when your last hour comes upon you He will walk you through the valley of shadow of death into a glory and Heavenly bliss no mind can comprehend. It is my prayer during these times of trial that you look for a peace that nothing in this world can ever give. I pray you find peace in the love and forgiveness Jesus Christ has bought and paid for with His holy and precious blood on the cross of Calvary.

In Christ,

**Pastor Firminhac**

As you all know we have been on a rollercoaster ride in the month of March and it doesn’t look like it is going to end very soon. The preschool was in session March 1st through the 13th. We were then to have Monday March 16th and Tuesday March 17th off due to a vacation day and a professional development day. As it ended up those were the first two days of our COVID-19 school closure. We were hopeful that we would be able to come back April 6th to continue schooling through the rest of the school year but that was not to be. As of right now we are closed through the end of April. Ms. Wylie and I have sent packets home to the children and have put on the school’s website different places for the parents to carry on with their child’s education at home while we are social distancing.
So, we were able to have some fun during the first part of March. We celebrated Dr. Seuss’s birthday on Monday, March 2nd with the students coming to school in their favorite Costume. We also had favorite costume day on Tuesday so both classes could enjoy having the fun of being in costume. Wednesday, March 3rd we had crazy hair day. The students were so creative with their hair! Thursday the children were to wear their favorite color and Friday was cowboy/cowgirl day. The students enjoyed the whole week of doing something totally out of character. It makes for a crazy week when the little ones do something different and out of since. But it sure was fun!!

During all the activities and schoolwork, we enjoyed Chapel time with Pastor Firminhac. During the month of March Pastor read the children stories about Jesus feeds 5000 (John 6), and The Transfiguration (Matthew 17). Thank you Pastor Firminhac for the time you spend with our preschool children. The ministry you give to these children has no boundaries. The love you show our preschool students rebounds to everyone who comes into contact with them after they have been with you. Pastor Firminhac you are a true blessing to these children, Ms. Wylie, Ms. Cheryl and to Our Savior Lutheran Church. Hopefully we will have more time with Pastor Firminhac before the end of the school year.

We were blessed with four birthdays in the month of March. Hattie Hoffman celebrated her birthday on March 2nd. Hattie’s birthday was March 3rd as she turned five years old. Hattie is the daughter of Thomas and Darby Hoffman. On March 13th we celebrated Christian Sherrow’s birthday. Christian turned five years old on March 12th. Christian is the son of Daniel and Kayla Sherrow. Also, in the Sherrow family is Kaydence. We were out of school when Kadence had her birthday. Kaydence turned four on March 21st. Jax Bruch had his birthday on March 22nd. Jax turned five years old. Jax is the son of Wade and Abby Bruch. It was certainly sad that we didn’t get to celebrate two of our student birthdays during school hours, but I am sure they were both blessed at home with family. Happy Birthday to these four young people whom we are truly blessed with.

We were going to have our 7th annual Preschool Fundraiser Family Fun Night on Friday, March 27th but with the closing of the school (COVID-19 Disease school closure) we were unable to. We had tentatively rescheduled for April 24th but that is a “no-go” to. This is put on the back burner for a while. If you are in a mind to still donate, we will graciously accept.

We have many questions and no answers as of this time whether school will be able to resume or not for the 2019-2020 school year. Hopefully we will have some answers soon. We will keep you up to date as soon as we have more information.

I’m not sure whether Spring came in like a lion or a lamb this year. The weather has been windy, cold, warm (even hot), rainy, snowy and all the in between! I guess it’s anyone’s guess. The Lord blesses us with what we need ……we just need to accept it all graciously! HAPPY SPRING!

Yours in Christ,

Cheryl Lapp
April 5
"There's Still Time"
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
People can be unreceptive to God's love because they are very bad-or because they think they are very good. (Exodus 11-12)

April 12
"Whatever Gets Your Attention Gets You"
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
"To believe is more than just acknowledging that Jesus is risen from the dead; it includes that, but there's more. It's about where you lay your fears, where you rest your concerns. It has to do with what gets your attention-with what gets you."
(John 20)

April 19
"You Haven't Lost Me"
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
Christians are not immune from relapses into sin and doubt. A Christian is at the same time both saint and sinner. Dr. Michael Zeigler tells how God loves us through the relapses, in a message titled "You Haven't Lost Me." And we'll hear how the Bible Project's animated videos present the Bible as a unified story that leads to Jesus. (Exodus 14)

April 26
"The Great Pursuit"
Guest Speaker: Pastor Ryan Tinetti
(Exodus 15)
First Financial Update since actions required to cancel all services and activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic as mandated by Governor Gordon and the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

The last public worship service was held on 15 March 2020. Since that time and in keeping with the encouragement of Pastor Firminhac in his letter to the congregation dated March 21, 2020, offerings have been mailed or personally delivered to the church for two Wednesday Lenten services and two Sunday Divine services. We know that the offerings have been negatively affected by the cancellation of public worship services, but we will need a few more weeks to accurately report and determine if additional control actions are required, outside of those already taken by the Board of Finance as outlined in the following paragraph.

The Board of Finance met on Tuesday, the 24th of March, to review our offerings versus expenses in light of the reduced offerings and to begin the planning process to possibly reduce expenses should the shutdown continue into April and possibly beyond. With few exceptions, our expenses continue unimpeded by the pandemic. Because we were able to start 2020 with a $10,500.00 surplus and the fact that three Sunday offerings plus two Lenten offerings had been received in the first half of March before the shutdown, we are still showing a surplus in undedicated funds although through 31 March our expenses exceeded our offerings by $6,377.00. In addition, janitorial service has been suspended, and the possibility of using emergency reserve funds to pay our monthly loan payment is being discussed should the need arise. Additional actions have been discussed and the Board will meet again on 1 April to continue their oversight and review. Any additional recommendations will be submitted to the Church Planning Council for its consideration or action.

We would encourage our members to remain faithful with your offerings but only to the extent you are able, during this time and possibly even consider an additional gift should you find yourself in a position to do so. The Board also encourages everyone to consider using “E-Giving” as a way of automatically having your offerings either sent electronically to our checking account or by check directly to the church. Most banks also offer free bill pay services that also ensures your offerings are sent when you are unable or cannot attend services. Some employers also offer automatic withdrawals from your salary. Additional information on these options will be made available soon.

Finally, we would like to extend a very heartfelt thank you to the Firminhac family, especially Callie, for devoting so much time and effort into developing our website to which Pastor, with help from his family, is able to record and post the Lenten and Sunday services to the website for our spiritual growth and general wellbeing in these difficult and terrifying times.