





Peace Mission Statement . . .

To witness and live as followers of Christ; serving one another in Christian love, so that God's Holy Spirit may save the lost and strengthen the saved.

# **IMPORTANT NOTICE/INVITATION:**

 Pastor's Thursday, 2:00 p.m. Bible Study on the Book of John will resume on Thursday, May 7, at 2:00 p.m. You may join in by signing up for Zoom at <u>zoom.us</u> or download the Zoom app on your cell phone.

 Get connected on Facebook and join us live for our Saturday Hymn
Sing at 6:30 p.m. and Divine Worship on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. by going to peacewaterford.org and clicking on the "f" Facebook icon.

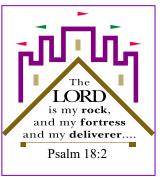
Contact Pastor Tkac at 248-821-2727 or Debbie at the office (248-681-9360) if you need help getting connected.

"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

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₽	Sing Praises to the Lord	
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Cling to Hymns in a Pandemic Marie Greenway, April 28, 2020 Dear friends in Christ,

It is my hope and prayer that you are healthy and doing well as we together stay home while this pandemic continues to keep us from gathering in person for worship. I want to also thank you for your gifts and offerings, which you have generously given to meet the needs of Peace during this trying time. While I don't yet know the timeline and details that will allow us to gather in some form for worship, I want to write a few thoughts as to how the church might look and be different going forward for a while. Before we had to



close our doors, President Bill Krueger and I took a look at how we might make worship safer for our members, and we have continued to talk about how we might do this when we can once again come together for worship. Here are some reasonable measures we will be implementing.

**MAY 2020** 

FROM THE

STOR

If you or a member of your family is sick with the virus, please stay home.

We will not gather in the Narthex before or after worship to visit. Please find a seat in the sanctuary as soon as you arrive. We will place bulletins at seating locations for your convenience. We may limit seating locations and use the Narthex for seating to keep safe distances between us.

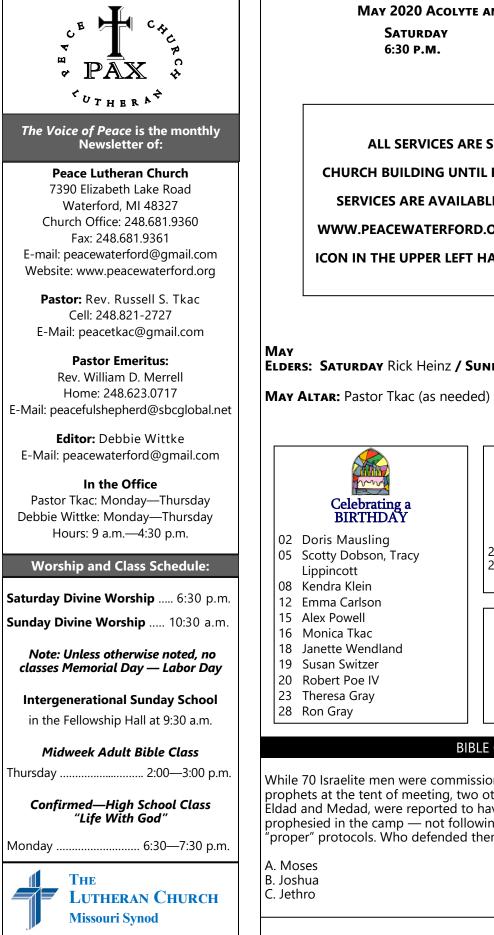
Sit with those you live with only, and keep the recommended six-foot distance between you and other worshipers. Wave hello, but do not hug or shake hands.

There will be no public greeting time following the call to worship. After the announcements, we will begin our service with the opening hymn. The number of hymn verses may be limited to shorten service times.

The offering plate will be at the entrance of the Nave by the Baptismal font. Offerings may be placed before or after worship, eliminating the need for passing the offering plate.

We will distribute Holy Communion in a continuous line, row-by-row, and side-by-side to keep safe distancing going forward. We will not initially offer the common cup.

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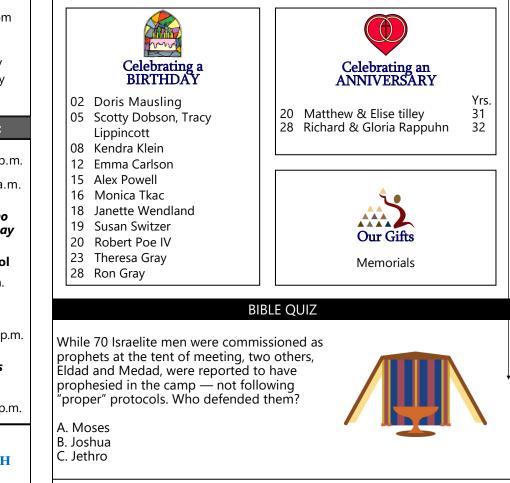


## MAY 2020 ACOLYTE AND READER SCHEDULE

SUNDAY 10:30 A.M.

ALL SERVICES ARE SUSPENDED AT THE **CHURCH BUILDING UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. ONLINE** SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE ON FACEBOOK. GO TO WWW.PEACEWATERFORD.ORG AND CLICK ON THE "f" ICON IN THE UPPER LEFT HAND CORNER TO CONNECT.

**ELDERS:** SATURDAY Rick Heinz / SUNDAY Jay Squanda (as needed)



Answer: A (See Numbers 11:24-29.)

All Worship services are on Facebook Live. Go to www.peacewaterford.ord and click on the "f" Facebook icon. In the upper left hand corner to connect.

CONNECT ON FACEBOOK LIVE FOR WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
					1	2	
						6:30 pm Hymn Sing Facebook Live	
3 Fourth Sunday of	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Easter 10:30 a.m. Worship Facebook Live				2:00 p.m. — John Bible Study resumes at zoom.us		6:30 pm Hymn Sing Facebook Live	
10 Fifth Sunday of Easter	11	12	13	14	15	16	
10:30 a.m. Worship Facebook Live <b>MOTHER'S DAY</b>		7:00 pm Zoom Elder's Meeting		2:00 pm Zoom Bible Study 7:00 pm Zoom Council Meeting		6:30 pm Hymn Sing Facebook Live	
17 Sixth Sunday of Easter	18	19	20	21 The Ascension of our Lord	22	23	
10:30 a.m. Worship Facebook Live				2:00 pm Zoom Bible Study		6:30 pm Hymn Sing Facebook Live MEMORIAL DAY	
Newsletter DEADLine						WEEKEND	
24 Seventh Sunday of Easter	25	26	27	28	29	30	
10:30 a.m. Worship Facebook Live	MEMORIAL DAY			2:00 pm Zoom Bible Study		6:30 pm Hymn Sing Facebook Live	
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND							
31 The Day of Pentecost							
10:30 a.m. Worship Facebook Live		WE WILL NOTIFY YOU WHEN THE CHURCH REOPENS FOR ONSIGHT WORSHIP AND ACTIVITIES!					

May

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Online worship through Facebook Live will continue on Sunday mornings for those who are sick or feel uncomfortable gathering together due to the pandemic and for our friends that have joined us in worship through this means. I pray it has been a blessing to you during this lockdown.

Bible Study and Sunday school will start-up in the fall.

We may need to suspend all summer activities until further notice.

The daily devotions and online worship keep us connected, and I look forward to beginning an online Bible Study Group going forward. Some have joined the *Word-Wide Bible Study* offered on Tuesday mornings at 11:00 a.m. by LCMS Pastor Bryan Wolfmuller in Austin, Texas, via the Zoom app. Please consider joining us if you are able.

Above are some necessary steps Bill and I have talked through as we slowly look to gather again. It is my hope as we move forward, that, a more familiar Peace Lutheran Church will emerge over time. Please bear in mind that while worship may look different for a time, it is for the wellbeing of us all so we can once again gather and worship together.

With the Lord's help, we will get through this.

The Lord Is with you, Pastor Tkac





#### Cling to Hymns in a Pandemic Marie Greenway, April 28, 2020

Several of Bach's chorales are included in our hymnal today, such as "Lamb of God, Pure and Holy" (*LSB* 434), "O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken" (*LSB* 439), "Upon the Cross Extended" (*LSB* 453), and "<u>O Sacred Head, Now Wounded</u>" (*LSB* 450). Like us, the people in Bach's congregation in Leipzig, Germany, would have recognized these tunes and words. They would have considered these chorales to be their songs.

Imagine that you are listening to a performance of Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* but you (like me) do not understand German. The performance starts and you are immediately lost; however, you soon hear a familiar melody drifting through the milieu of voices in the opening chorus. You recognize this melody as "Lamb of God, Pure and Holy." Soon, you start to recognize other hymns that you commonly sing during Lent. While you may not understand the language, you understand the point of each hymn. You can understand how each hymn responds to a certain part in the Passion story. This is what Bach intended. He wanted his hearers—even those who did not understand German—to recognize these hymns. He knew they would have a deep knowledge of these hymns.

Of course, we are now past Holy Week and firmly in the Easter season. Our hymns, though, are still responses to the biblical text. Our alleluias fill the air as our communal response to Christ's resurrection. We Christians sing these hymns in one voice, united in our response to Christ's saving work.

## **Music Builds Community**

We need this communal response especially now when we are forced out of our physical gathering spaces by disease and death. We are beings who need to gather *physically*. We are a combination of body and soul, meant to live in physical community. When that is taken from us, we struggle. Of course, technology is a gift in a time like this, allowing us to gather virtually, if not physically.

Our hymns carry us through this time because we are still able to sing them in community, even if not while physically in the same space. My church has been livestreaming services with a miniature choir to sing the hymns and to speak and sing the congregational responses. Even as the small group of us gather in the building, we know that many others are gathering online and are singing the same things we are. In this time of uncertainty, we still sing our old, familiar hymns that remind us of our salvation and Jesus' victory over sickness, disease, and death.

## Hymns Share God's Saving Work

Our hymns are a treasure because they are *ours*. We sing them week after week, year after year. We recognize them as our own. Like Bach's Leipzig congregation at St. Thomas Church, we hear them and sing them as our communal responses to Christ's saving work. Why are old liturgies, old hymns, old prayers, and memorized passages still important? Because there are times when life is no longer normal and we need these things to cling to. We cling to these remembered, familiar things because they guide us to the ultimate steadfast and unchanging truth: Christ Himself.

We were taught these things, and we teach them to the next generation because they are true, beautiful, and good. We continue to sing hymns because they are ours and because they belong to this community of believers, a community that can gather despite the rages and ravages of the world. Our hymns unite us and point us to the One who lives. Because He lives, we respond evermore with alleluias! No longer are we downcast, no longer do we fear death. Instead, we sing joyously together. We sing *our songs*, our hymns of life.

For Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!