

Have you been fortunate enough to receive both of your COVID VIRUS vaccinations? I get my second one this week. The Session is wondering about a few things and would like you to call or write the church with some information.

At our March Session meeting we made a goal to re-open in-person worship on May 2, 2021. After we cheered at the thought of being back in the sanctuary together again, we had to make these disclaimers.

- **IF** there are no surges in cases or cautions to stay closed, we will re-open.
- **IF** people will abide by the rules of social distancing, wearing masks, using hand sanitizer and avoiding hugs and handshakes, we will re-open.
- **IF** people can live without fellowship time at the back of the church, we will re-open.
- **IF** people will wait until they are outside the church to visit in the open air, we will re-open.

There is good news in all of this. Many of us will have had both our COVID vaccines by May. We are allowed to sing in worship....with our masks on. It will be warmer outside in May so we can visit a bit outside after worship.

**Now your assignment.** Normally, our worship September through May is at 10:30 a.m. Then in June through August we move to 9:30 worship. It has been suggested that we find an agreeable year round time for worship. Four options have been suggested.

1. Leave it at 10:30 a.m. in winter and 9:30 a.m. in summer.
2. Change it to 9:30 a.m. year round.
3. Change it to 10 a.m. year round.
4. Change it to 10:30 a.m. year round.

So do us a favor. Call or write the church with three pieces of information Let us know **1) your name 2) your vaccination status and 3) your choice of worship times.** Please do this by our Session meeting on April 19. The church phone number is 741-7336 and the address is 212 S 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Virginia, MN 55792.

Blessings to you all as we make these decisions!  
Rev. Kate Stangl

## HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- |                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 – Abigail Keelin  | 14 – Rebecca Staver   |
| 1 – Katie Keelin    | 17 – Sam DeVries      |
| 2 – Sue Stevens     | 18 – Ariella Reynolds |
| 3 – Dorothy Tyndall | 20 – Nancy Judnick    |
| 4 – Arin Marks      | 22 – Alicia Atkins    |
| 6 – Andrew Lee      | 25 – Lauren Day       |
| 6 – Joel Moschler   | 25 – Marko Thompson   |
| 7 – Dale Peterson   | 26 – Kevin Koski      |
| 7 – Bob Prosen      | 26 – Kathy Stanaway   |
| 9 – Ben Remington   | 30 – Erin Hartline    |
| 11 – Carol Ewens    |                       |

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Session has voted to begin in-person worship beginning Sunday, May 2 unless there is a surge in COVID cases. COVID guidelines will be followed.
- To help guide Session's decision to reopen church worship, we are compiling a list of worship participants who have received their vaccines. See Pastor Kate's note.
- Session would like your input on a possible change to worship times. See Pastor Kate's note.

## COVID PROTOCOL

When we return to in-person worship, our COVID safety protocol will be similar to when we opened in September.

- Masks must be worn, including when singing.
- Family units will sit 6' apart.
- Sanitize hands before you enter the sanctuary and when you leave.
- No handshakes or hugs.
- Socializing after worship can take place outside, not inside the church.
- If you test positive for COVID after attending worship, please contact the church so that we can notify others of potential contact.
- Please stay home if you have COVID symptoms.
- The church will be sanitized after worship.

## WORSHIP VIDEOS

Once we begin in-person worship, recordings of the service will still be available on cable Channel 6

and YouTube. We are currently working to upgrade our internet service so that services can be live-streamed, which means that you will be able to watch the service via YouTube on Sunday mornings as worship is taking place.

## EASTER LILY MEMORIALS

- Judy & Claude Erickson - In memory of Jacquie Ault, Norma Nekich, Tracy Podpesker, Clara Hill, Mom & Dad Healy/Erickson, sister Julene, nephews David & Luke, friends and loved ones
- Paj, Bob, Stephanie Falkowski and Dick and Sue Johnson in memory of all our loved ones
- Jack McKillop – In memory of son John and Clara Hill
- Rusty Moorefield – In loving memory of Cheryl Lynn Jaksch, Sonny Jaksch, & Ken Moorefield
- Dana Wahlberg – In honor of Dan & Beth Hestetune

## MARCH DONATIONS

- Donations for the March Quad Cities Food Shelf drive currently total \$160.
- Donations for One Great Hour of Sharing currently total \$230.

## IN MEMORY

- Lorine Jeanette Knabe passed away January 10 in Virginia, MN. Memorials in her honor can be sent to the Mesabi Humane Society 2305 Southern Dr Virginia, MN 55792.
- Peggy (Martin) Baker passed away March 23 in Stillwater, MN. Memorials in her honor can be sent to our church.

## THANK YOU FROM SYLVIA

I want to thank everyone for the wonderful retirement send off - you truly caught me by surprise! The flower arrangement was beautiful, and the BG's card and generous monetary gift will be put to good use. I also treasure the many well-wishes and words of appreciation which have been shared. Thanks again for making my retirement so special! – Sylvia

HOPE COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN  
**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION  
 & YOUTH NEWS**

April 2021

**April  
 Sunday School**

The first Sunday of April is Easter!  
 The following two weeks we will be  
 exploring the story of Jesus' resurrection  
 celebrated at Easter.

April 11-18  
 Easter/The Empty Tomb  
 Mark 16

This story tells us that Jesus is more  
 powerful than death, and that he was not  
 defeated by those who had him crucified.  
 With the women at the tomb, we hear the  
 news that Jesus is alive.

The two weeks after that we will be  
 learning about what happened 50 days  
 later at Pentecost.

April 25- May 2  
 Pentecost  
 Acts 2

The Pentecost story assures us that God  
 remains with his people on earth through  
 His Holy Spirit, given to the disciples after  
 Jesus' resurrection and ascension.



**Palm Sunday**

Thanks to "Raquel" (Sue) and "Hazel" (Judy)  
 for the inspiring, egg-ceptional, Palm Sunday skit  
 reminding us what this day means for the world and  
 for us. Hope you all enjoyed it  
 and thank you,  
 Sue and Judy!



**One Great Hour of Sharing**

If you haven't brought in your fish banks  
 you can do it anytime.

The church office is usually open

M 10 am - 2:00 pm

T & W 10 am - 3 pm

TH 12 pm - 3 pm

or you can put it in a plastic bag and put it in the  
 mail slot. Thanks.



**Quiz! Do you remember last month's lessons?**

1. How did Jesus explain how hard it was for people  
 who loved their things more than they loved God to  
 enter Heaven?

a. giraffe and a hula hoop b. camel and needle

2. How did four men get their paralyzed friend to

Jesus? a. over the river and through the woods

b. through a needle c. through the roof

3. How did Jesus enter Jerusalem?

a. donkey colt b. white stallion c. elephant

**Birthday Box**

Ariella Reynolds April 18

Lauren Day April 25

Marko Thompson April 25



**Don't Forget Shut-in Cards**

Remember, kids, to color something for  
 our shut-ins! Send or bring your pictures  
 to the CE building. There is even a mail slot you can  
 put them in. I will send them out each month with  
 the shut-in cards. Have not received any yet.



**Christian Education Calendar**

Sunday April 4

Sunday April 11

Sunday April 18

Sunday April 25

Sunday May 2

Easter Sunday



Empty Tomb  
 week 1

Empty Tomb  
 week 2

Pentecost Lesson  
 week 1

Pentecost Lesson  
 week 2