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MAY

*Faith United Methodist Church
"Engage, Equip, and Empower!"*

**Volume 2020.
Issue 5**

What Comes After the Pandemic?

When this current crisis has passed who will we give thanks and praise to for bringing us to a place of safety?

Scientists who find a vaccine or some other medication that will cure or lessen the impact of the virus on our lives; our state and federal government for the financial help they have given us to get us through these tough times; our doctors that kept us healthy; our family members who made sure our needs were met when we were restricted in our ability to leave our homes; our neighbors who helped us in our time of need or our church family who provided emotional and physical support during the time of sheltering in place? These are all worthy of our thanks for their tireless work and great talents that will bring Covid-19 under control. But here is a question to think about now and when our lives resume some form of normality...

Where will God rank in our list of those we thank for our protection and provision?

Psalm 24 reminds of the preeminent place of God in our lives as the one who is our constant companion and champion.

Our Help Is in the Name of the LORD Psalm 124

If it had not been the LORD who was on our side— let Israel now say— if it had not been the LORD who was on our side when people rose up against us, then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us; then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us; then over us would have gone the raging waters. Blessed be the LORD, who has not given us as prey to their teeth! We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped! Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

This Psalm is a wonderful testimony to God's help in a time of great danger it is not a defense or an apologetic about God's ability to save Israel, but a robust statement that God was the source of Israel's rescue from an overwhelming danger. The Psalmist does not attempt to explain how Israel survived by God's help; it is a testimony of the fact of God's help in the form of a song.

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Prayer Requests

Remember our church members & friends who are less mobile and are unable to join us as often as they would like, including:

Janesville Nursing Home: Nina Youngberg

Traditions Assisted Living Owatonna: Ardella Draheim

Colony Court: Muriel Jenkins

Foxdale: Gordy Miller, Joe & Gloria Tollefson

Koda Living Community: Chuck Youngberg

Lakeshore Inn: Liz Corchran, Leona Quast, George Kubista

Latham Place: Lucille Kubista, Elaine Westrum

Prayer Requests from Sunday Worship: Michael Schumacher, Bud & Peggy Deno, Bob, Jessica and Adam Deno, government officials, health care workers, first responders, and those who are most at risk and vulnerable to Covid-19, those who battle chronic illness and pain.



Financial Update

We are pleased that so many members have continued to give to Faith Church during this time when the Sunday services have been suspended. This financial support is needed very much since most of the expenses have continued as before. Thank you to everyone who has continued to send in their gifts during this time.

Administrative Assistant Hours

Since school will not resume in May, office hours will continue to vary due to Stacy's need to assist her child with distance learning. If you need to visit the church please call ahead. The church office phone number is 507-835-3167. You may also leave a message on the answering machine or send an email to faithwaseca@gmail.com. Messages will be checked regularly.

Thank you for your understanding.

Trustees Meeting

Trustees will meet **Thursday, May 21 at 6:30 pm** in the Lakeview Room.

What Comes After the Pandemic?

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The song is so vigorous, so confident, so bursting with what can only be called reality that it fundamentally changes our approach and our questions when a calamity, a scourge, plague or a pandemic rise its awful head and threatens our lives and our world.

No longer does it seem of the highest priority to ask, “Why did this happen to me? Why do I feel left in the lurch?” Instead we ask, “How does it happen that there are people who sing with such confidence in the midst of such great danger, ‘God’s strong name is our help?’”

If it had not been the LORD who was on our side— let Israel now say— if it had not been the LORD who was on our side when people rose up against us, then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us; when their anger was kindled against us; then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us; then over us would have gone the raging waters.

God’s help is not a private experience; it is a corporate reality—not an exception that occurs among isolated strangers, but the norm among the people of God.

God’s help is described by means of two illustrations. *The people were in danger of being swallowed up alive; and they were in danger of being drowned by a flood.*

The first picture is of an enormous dragon or sea monster. Nobody has ever seen a dragon, but everybody (especially children) knows they exist. *Dragons are projections of our fears, horrible constructions of all that might hurt us. A dragon is total evil.*

A peasant confronted by a magnificent dragon is completely outclassed. There is no escape: the dragon’s thick skin, fiery mouth, lashing serpentine tail, and insatiable greed and lust sign an immediate doom.

The second picture, the flood, speaks of sudden disaster. In the Middle East, watercourses that have eroded the countryside are all interconnected by an intricate gravitational system. A sudden storm fills these little gullies with water, they feed into one another, and in a very few minutes a torrential flash flood is produced.

Blessed be the LORD, who has not given us as prey to their teeth! We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped! Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

Whatever the hazardous in my life, I will respond by proclaiming the greatness of God. ***"Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth."***

From “How very hard it is to be A Christian. Hard For You And Me.” by Robert Browning

Every day I put faith on the line. I have never seen God. In a world where nearly everything can be weighed, explained, quantified, subjected to psychological analysis and scientific control, I persist in making the center of my life a God whom no eye hath seen, nor ear heard, whose will no one can probe. That’s a risk.

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What Comes After the Pandemic?

Cont. from page 3

Every day I put hope on the line. *I don't know one thing about the future. I don't know what the next hour will hold. There may be sickness, accident, personal or world catastrophe. Before this day is over I may have to deal with death, pain, loss, rejection. I don't know what the future holds for me, for those I love, for my nation, for this world. Still, despite my ignorance and surrounded by tinny optimists and cowardly pessimists, I say that God will accomplish his will, and I cheerfully persist in living in the hope that nothing will separate me from Christ's love.*

Every day I put love on the line. *There is nothing I am less good at than love. I am far better in competition than in love. I am far better at responding to my instincts and ambitions to get ahead and make my mark than I am at figuring out how to love another. I am schooled and trained in acquisitive skills, in getting my own way. And yet I decide, every day, to set aside what I can do best and attempt what I do very clumsily—open myself to the frustrations and failures of loving, daring to believe that failing in love is better than succeeding in pride.*

All that is hazardous work; I live on the edge of defeat all the time. I have never done any one of those things to my (or anyone else's) satisfaction. I live in the dragon's maw and at the flood's edge.

Psalm 124 is an instance of a person who digs deeply into the trouble and finds there the presence of the God who is on our side. In the details of the conflict, in the minuteness of a personal history, the majestic greatness of God becomes revealed. **Faith develops out of the most difficult aspects of our existence, not the easiest.**

The person of faith is not a person who has been born, luckily, with a good digestion and sunny disposition. The assumption by outsiders that Christians are naive or protected is the opposite of the truth: Christians know more about the deep struggles of life than others, more about the ugliness of sin.

We speak our words of praise in a world that is hellish; we sing our songs of victory in a world where things get messy; we live our joy among people who neither understand nor encourage us. ***But the content of our lives is God, not humanity.*** We are not scavenging in the dark alleys of the world, poking in its garbage cans for a bare subsistence. ***We are traveling in the light, toward God who is rich in mercy and strong to save. It is Christ, not culture that defines our lives. It is the help we experience, not the hazards we risk, that shapes our days.***

Pastor Victor

Thanks for Covering Your Smile!

COVID-19 has put a damper on our interacting. But my typing is getting better! Hopefully you too are e-mailing and calling friends and family.

Big thanks to Jan Kaupa for making 84 protective masks. She has given them to nursing homes and friends and family. I've made 35 masks for church members and others. My husband reports that not everyone is using masks. Walmart is filled with non-compliance. So try to go early with a list to minimize your time there. WASH your hands after being at the store. Please keep the people at the stores in your prayers.

Vitamin D 1000iu daily is suppose to help fight off the virus and if you do get it, Vit. D will help lessen the symptoms. I don't normally take vitamin supplements but now am taking Vitamin D daily.

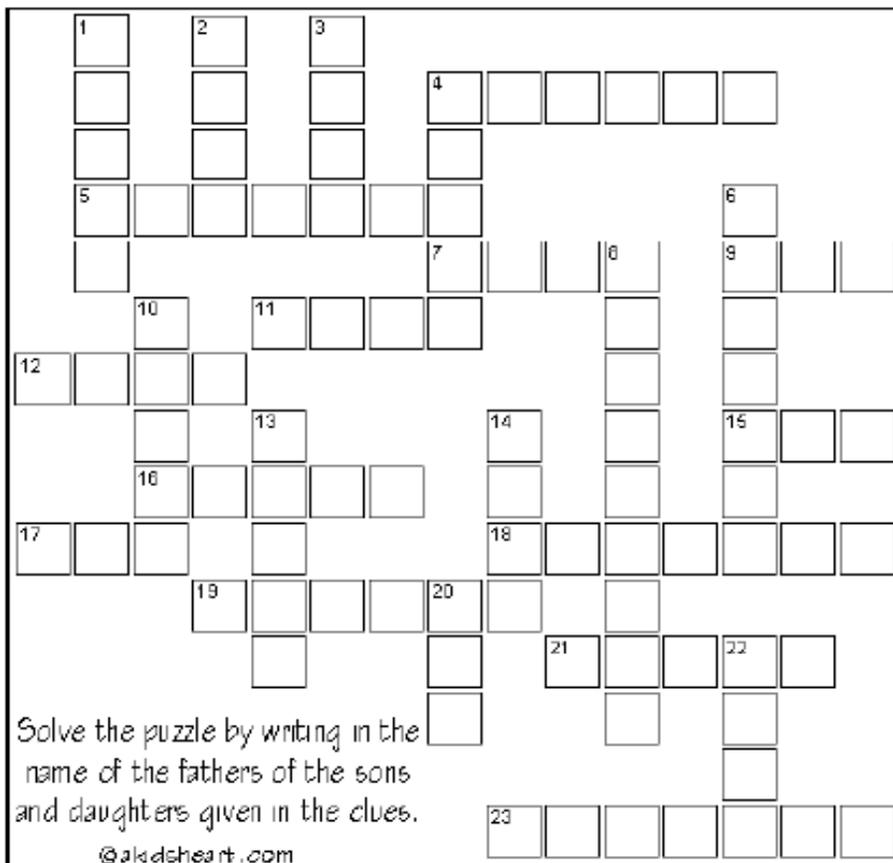
As Governor Walz says "Stay Home Minnesota" Thinking about you and praying we all stay safe and healthy.

Sherry Scholljegerdes, Your Past Parish Nurse



Bob Hunter and Janet Welch covering their smiles.

Fathers in the Bible



Across

- 4. Ephraim and Manasseh
- 5. Rehoboam
- 7. Hezekiah
- 9. Moab
- 11. Nimrod
- 12. Obed
- 15. Joshua
- 16. Esau and Jacob
- 17. Jesus
- 18. Isaac and Ishmael
- 19. Samson
- 21. Joseph and Benjamin
- 23. James and John, The sons of thunder

Down

- 1. David
- 2. Jonathan, Merab, and Michal
- 3. Cain and Abel
- 4. Simeon Peter
- 6. Samuel
- 8. John the Baptist
- 10. Absalom and Solomon
- 13. Rachel and Leah
- 14. Shem, Ham, and Japeth
- 20. Jehoshaphat
- 22. Jesse



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Change Service Requested

Come Worship with Us
We have room.

MONTHLY MEET-UPS:

Elizabeth Circle

UMW Elizabeth Circle will not meet in May.

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle will not meet in May.