



FIRST THINGS

First Lutheran Church of Brookings, SD

...engaging life and the world, by and through God's grace.

Volume 21 Issue 2 April and May of 2020

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR DAVE

When Martin Luther was asked to address the question of how a Christian should respond to the plague, he couched his answer in our response to Matthew 25:40: "As surely as you do this to the least of these who are members of my family, you do it to me."

Luther argued that we have two responsibilities – 1) to be of service to those who are ill and those who are in fear. He writes, "A man (sic) who will not help or support others unless he can do so without affecting his safety or his property will never help his neighbor. He will always reckon with the possibility that doing so will bring some disadvantage and damage, danger and loss. No neighbor can live alongside another without risk to his safety, property, wife, or child." And 2) to make good use of medicine and intelligence. Luther writes, "God has created medicines and provided us with intelligence to guard and take good care of the body so that we can live with good health."

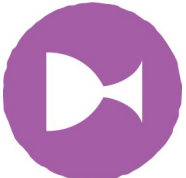
The first loves and serves God by providing for the neighbor's needs, as God is there. The second loves and serves God by doing everything possible to protect life by not carrying illness to those with whom God is present.

As First Lutheran seeks the best path forward in the midst of the coronavirus, we do so with a heart to serve our neighbors in need, tempered by the wisdom to avoid unnecessary encounters where life is treated carelessly. With this as our goal, we will not be gathering at the church facility for worship services or meetings until the situation changes.

As we face this challenge, we will remain centered in God and connected in faith. We are first and foremost the beloved children of God, claimed by God through the death of resurrection of Jesus. We are therefore a people of hope and life, and we will trust God's strength and guidance. The one who faced temptation, illness, betrayal, and death at the hands of the people Jesus came to love, is the one who took all of that pain and fear and then brought new life for those very same people. God's love does not let go; God's grace knows no bounds; God's presence will not abandon us.

Lean on scripture, trust in prayer, and walk in faith – we walk with God in this valley.

(more from Pastor Dave on pgs. 2-5)



MORE FROM PASTOR DAVE.....

With all of this going on, I thought I'd take this opportunity to share with you some of our council conversations about congregational direction and community engagement.

WILL WE CALL ANOTHER PASTOR? WHAT ARE WE DOING NOW?

In conversation, the council has chosen not to call another pastor at this point.

WHAT ABOUT YOUTH MINISTRY?

Rather than calling a new pastor, we are creating a [job description is being created](#) for a position that would be dedicated to the middle school and high school youth of the church. By bringing this position on board, it would allow Pastors Dave and Nyla to be present and active with our MS and HS youth, but remove the organizational aspects freeing them to engage more fully as our spiritual and pastoral leaders. The council is hoping to hire someone with a Master of Arts in Youth and Family Ministry who will be well versed in theology and ministry leadership.

Rather than calling a new pastor, it is our intent to engage the congregation in its own ministry in more intentional ways, freeing Pastor Dave and Pastor Nyla for the ministries of spiritual leadership in preaching, teaching, and pastoral care. To engage the members of First Lutheran in this way, we are **RE**creating a system to incorporate ministry teams and resource teams to promote, lead, and dream the future of First Lutheran – both within and beyond the walls of the facility.

Resource teams are those areas that support the possibility of our ministry – financial, facility/property, and human. Ministry teams are those areas that create opportunities for Ritual, Engagement, and Connection – Mission Coffeehouse, Preschool, Youth and Family, Hospitality, Cemetery, Worship, Face of Grace, and more.

We've made an intentional effort through the season of Lent to focus on the three areas these teams fall into – Ritual, Engagement, and Connection. These areas cover, as we have defined them, much of the ministry we are called to:

RITUAL – “Centered in God” – this is the worshiping aspect of our ministry (how we grow in seeing God's love all around us). Ritual would include worship services and support, devotional guides and preparation, prayer, scripture reading, etc.

ENGAGE – “Sent to Serve” – this is the missional aspect of our ministry (how we live out God's love to community). Engage would include service opportunities like mission trips, Harvest Table, Feeding Brookings, Christmas Dinner, Habitat for Humanity, etc.

CONNECT – “Brought Together in Christ” – This is the socializing aspect of our ministry (how we become a community of care and support). Connect is where we grow together in community through meals, activities, studies, etc. This is where we grow in connection to God and in connection to our neighbor.

In our current “social distancing” period, these could look like:

RITUAL – Sunday Worship by internet or radio, Mobile App, Lenten Worship and Devotionals (continue until we are back together)...

ENGAGE – Delivering groceries, meals, or medicine for those who need help, prayer chain, making masks to protect the vulnerable...

CONNECT – Phone calls to check in with our faith family, social media conversations, online meetings, virtual coffee klatches... (Oh – please be sure the church has your most recent contact information including phone numbers, email, address)

(cont'd pg. 3)

(cont'd from pg. 2)

WHAT ARE WE DOING WITH STAFFING THROUGH THE CORONAVIRUS?

The church council will be meeting on March 26th (just after this newsletter goes out) to talk about staffing and payroll through the coronavirus. As much as possible, we plan to continue our ministries, providing care and support and worship on a regular basis using alternative means of delivery.

Two areas of the church that will be most affected are the preschool and the coffeehouse. The preschool is considering plans to assist families by providing home instruction and resources. The coffeehouse will be closed until further notice.

The office staff continues to answer phones and provide newsletters, bulletins, and mailings as needed to communicate well with the congregation. Please be sure to use *the form included in this newsletter (pg. 7)* to update us on name, address, phone, and/or email changes.

The janitorial staff is going room by room to perform a deep cleaning that was sorely needed.

The music staff is continuing to provide high quality worship and music as we stream and broadcast all services live.

The Youth and Family Ministry staff is helping children and families grow in faith by providing resources of videos, crafts, and books, via email or the church app so that families can engage in faith growth activities at home.

The pastoral staff is counseling, preaching, and creating resources for personal faith growth. We are exploring alternatives for connection and theological engagement.

WHAT ABOUT WORSHIP?

Hopefully you've heard by now, but we are continuing all of our worship services – but we are using either internet streaming or radio broadcast. We are recording them both live, and keeping the feel of that moment as best we can.

The traditional (8:30) service is broadcast on am1430, KBRK, at 11:00am every Sunday.

The contemporary (10:30) service is streamed on Facebook Live at 10:30am every Sunday.

The Wednesday Lenten services are streamed on Facebook Live at 7:00pm every Wednesday.

We are currently looking at continuing Wednesday evening services through the coronavirus quarantines. This is a chance to engage in song, prayer, and worship as a community.

WHAT ABOUT OFFERING?

As you can tell by this letter – we are not slowing down. In fact, in many ways, this has increased what we are doing. The main difference is that we can't be together once or twice a week, and so it can be almost invisible.

To offer your financial gifts to God, you can:

- Mail your offering to the church – FLC, PO Box 300, Brookings, SD 57006
- Use Automatic Withdrawal – use *the form in this newsletter (pg. 6)* to apply. Per your designation, the church will automatically withdraw from your account once/month (with no fees).
- Use online giving through our website (firstlutheranbrookings.org) or the mobile app. You will have more control over frequency and days for withdrawal (there are fees associated with this). If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Dave.

(cont'd pg. 4)

(cont'd from pg. 3)

WHAT ABOUT FUNERALS AND WEDDINGS AND BAPTISMS?

We intend to limit funerals and weddings to immediate family only, or where possible, to reschedule, in order to attend to social distancing protocols. We will not provide a meal or coffee to avoid the concerns that follow that.

We will encourage all baptisms to be scheduled after the coronavirus social-distancing concerns have been lifted.

HOW CAN I HELP? WHAT IF I NEED HELP?

We are putting together a list of people willing to assist those who cannot or should not get out, those who'd be willing to make regular contact by phone, or just offer assistance where it may be needed. If you are able to help, please contact Diane by calling 605-692-6251 to let her know.

At the same time, we are working to identify all who may need assistance in any form – grocery or medicine pickup, phone conversation, mail, etc. If you need assistance, or know someone who does, please contact Diane at 605-692-6251 to let her know.

We are slowly discovering all of the ways we can be helpful, and if you have an idea of how we can be of assistance, please call and let us know – talk to Diane or one of the pastors.

Never hesitate to call the pastors about personal or spiritual care.

A REMINDER IN THIS MOMENT ABOUT FAMILY

This time of social distancing and quarantined realities can, and will be, difficult. But it's also an opportunity to set some things aside that may serve as distractions and focus on the people around you. Though these categories can apply to specific age ranges, they don't have to. I've included a few ideas about how to connect that work for everyone.

Let's start here - families are not only defined by marriage or children – they are defined by those with whom you choose to share the most intimate realities of your life; the people who you turn to, laugh with, cry with, and can be yourself.

Parents – talk to your children; go for a walk; play a game; talk about important things; pray with them; talk about your faith; eat dinner at the table; read a book together...this difficult time can have moments of blessing if we stop to pay attention to those we love most. It may awaken an opportunity to share your love and hopes for them. Talk about things that matter.

Children – talk to your parents; take them for a walk; be helpful around the house; set down the games, phones, etc. and ask big questions; eat dinner slowly around the table; think about your big questions; tell your parents about your dreams and fears, what makes you laugh and what you worry about. Let your parents in a little.

Everyone is carrying stress and anxiety. Everyone is wondering about time – how long will this last? Take some time to remember, talk about and pray for, those among us who are on the front lines – doctors and nurses, truckers, grocery store workers, elected officials, and anyone else you can think of. Then do the same for those who are adjusting to new realities of work and education – teachers, students, pastors, farmers, law enforcement, counselors, and anyone else you can think of. Then spend some time in your heart and mind for the mentally ill, those who struggle with addictions, those who fight depression and anxiety, those with chronic illnesses, those in nursing homes and assisted living facilities, those on ventilators and those waiting for one, those who will die and those who will survive. And, please, don't forget to pray for and support those who have loved ones who fall into these categories – this is just hard, and they need our support.

(cont'd pg. 5)

(cont'd from pg. 4)

As we remember the potential, and reality, of this disruption of what we call 'normal,' it's easy to get lost on details that are frustrating and inconvenient. But this moment is going to call us to sacrifice and service in ways that may surprise us – in ways that may make God more visible in the everyday.

We worship the God who served and sacrificed for us, and it changed our world. That's who we follow; that's who we worship; that's where our faith resides.

Quoting from Psalm 118 (though I encourage you to read it all):

"The LORD is on my side to help me...it is better to take refuge in the LORD than to put confidence in mortals...I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD...I thank you that you have answered me and become my salvation...Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD...O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever."



Holy Week and Easter Worship

Please stay tuned to the radio, open your emails and postal mail, check the First Lutheran app or visit www.firstlutheranbrookings.org!

We will do everything in our power to keep you informed if and when we will be able to hold Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter worship services in the Sanctuary. Thank you for your patience and understanding!

.....and what about Confirmation Sunday, Senior Sunday, Quilters, Bells, Choir, FLCW Bible Studies, the Mission Coffeehouse, Golden Age and.....

You won't find any articles in this newsletter pertaining to the above activities because we do not know when we can resume our regular activities. Our children will be celebrated, but it may be at a later date.

Know that after this time of trial is over, the bells will ring again, the choir will sing again, the Quilters will sew again, the MCH will open again, activities will resume and we will worship in our Sanctuary again!

IN THE MEANTIME.....

Worship with us by listening to the Traditional Festival Service on KBRK 1430am at 11:00am or

watching the Contemporary Praise Service streamed on Facebook Live at 10:30am. (enter **First Lutheran, Brookings** into the Facebook search site)

The Wednesday Lent service will be streamed on Facebook Live at 7:00pm. (enter **First Lutheran, Brookings** into the Facebook search site)

Automatic Deduction of Monthly Contribution

First Lutheran Church Brookings, SD

Automatic deduction - Automatic deduction is a safe and convenient method of making your monthly contribution to First Lutheran Church. In addition to being convenient for you, the process is also easier for the church and reduces overhead costs.

How does automatic deduction work? You simply authorize us to notify your bank to transfer the amount of your monthly contribution to us as indicated below. We will generally process the deduction between the 5th and 10th of each month. We will make all the necessary arrangements once we have received this authorization.

What if there is a problem with the deduction? If you ever find that there is a problem with the deduction you have authorized, please contact the church office at 692-6251 and we will correct it as soon as possible. If you wish to cancel the deduction in the future, please contact the church office before the 3rd of the month and we will cancel the process.

AUTHORIZATION AGREEMENT FOR AUTOMATIC DEDUCTION:

I/We _____ hereby authorize First Lutheran Church in Brookings, SD, to initiate debit entries from my checking account. I acknowledge that the origination of Automatic Debit transactions from my account must comply with the provisions of U.S. law.

[illegible]

STEP TWO: Amount to deduct: General Budget:

This authorization is to remain in force until First Lutheran Church in Brookings, SD receives notification from me of its termination.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please mail to FLC, PO Box 300, Brookings, SD 57006 or drop off in the main office.



FLC CONTACT INFORMATION FORM

Have you recently moved, dropped your landline phone, added or changed email addresses? Are you getting your newsletter by mail when you could receive it via email (it looks much better in color) and saves postage! Pastor Dave also sends out information via email pertaining to activities and more. Please fill out the form below if there has been a change in your contact information or if you need to add phone numbers or emails!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email(s): _____

Landline Phone number: _____

Cell Phone #1 and owner's name: _____

Cell Phone #2 and owner's name: _____

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL



council@firstlutheranbrookings.org

President: Nichole Berkenhoff

Vice President: Tiffany Lewis

Secretary: Barb Jensen

Brenda Algood

Rick Ribstein

Kris Seas

Erik Dahl



*“Let ev’ry instrument be
tuned for praise; let all rejoice
who have a voice to raise; and
may God give us faith to sing
always: Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia!”*

V5 from When in Our Music God is Glorified



Since sanctuary choir, hand bells, and all music activities are suspended, now seems an appropriate time to praise God for the gift of music and say thanks.

As the choir director this year, I want to express my deep thanks and appreciation for all choir members who have supported my efforts and raised their voices in praise to God. A special thank you to Helen Heuer, who stepped in to volunteer her time as our accompanist and Dr. Mary Ermel, who accompanied us, occasionally, on the organ.

I reached out to our SDSU students who have been on scholarship and will be graduating and leaving us to pursue their dreams. Their thoughts are inspirational and reinforce the importance of offering scholarships to students.

Jay Knutson says, “Over the past 4 years I have been singing in the FLC Choir and have had a wonderful time doing so. It has been an honor to sing for a church that my late grandparents, Eugene and Ione Knutson, attended so many years ago. I’ve made new friends with the choir members and have been given multiple opportunities to expand my musical experience. These include solos, cantoring, conducting the choir and many more. In August, I will be leaving this incredible choir to go student teach in Houston, Texas. I hope to find a new church to share my music with, in the same way I’ve been able to share it with all of you. I’m both excited for the new journey and saddened to leave the wonderful people I have met here along the way. Thank you for the amazing opportunity to sing for you and with you.”

Nic Petersen writes, “I’ve been in the FLC choir intermittently since starting at SDSU in 2016. The choir has always been a wonderful place for us to share our love of music and get closer to each other and God. It’s such a joy to sing such varied and interesting music with a group that cares for each other and couldn’t possibly be more welcoming. Once I graduate next fall and have a bit of a break, I’ll be moving on to grad. school to study reptile ecology. I hope to find a choir to join wherever I end up, but I’ll never forget my time in the FLC choir.”

We all certainly wish these students well and will miss them in our community.

Thank you to our graduating high school seniors, as well, for the time and energy they have brought to worship at First Lutheran. Tom and Kate Ropp and Ellie Abraham are leaving us to attend universities a long way from South Dakota! We wish them our best and hope they continue to sing and make music. They will always hold a special place in our hearts.

Thank you to Barbara Horten and the hand bell choir for their beautiful music this past year, which has featured seniors, Tom and Kate Ropp.

All the incredible instrumentalists who have enhanced our worship services- to you a BIG THANK YOU! We are so blessed to have such talented, committed and willing musicians in our midst.

Pat Anderson, Music Coordinator for 8:30 worship

Youth and Family News

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we move forward in these ever-changing times we continue to pray for health and grace. Our Faith Formations programs will work diligently to provide a variety of resources to support ongoing Christian education within your homes. You will be receiving information and updates via email, the First Lutheran App (remember to turn on FaithFormations Notifications), our website, and Facebook page.

Our Journey to Discipleship program has concluded for this year. We ask that you please register your children for next year's program and Vacation Bible School (VBS). This will enable us to start working on those programs, securing adequate number of volunteers and supplies. Below is the link for the registration. It can also be found on our FB post from March 2, our website and in recent app notifications for Faithformations (check the app inbox)

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx...>

#flcbrookingsvbs2020 #flcbrookingsvbs #firstlutheranbrookings #flcbrookings #touchdownjesus #tdjesus #allarewelcome

We will need volunteers to help with both programs. VBS is scheduled to be held July 27-31 and our Journey program will start up mid-September. If you are interested email Kari York @ faithformations@firstlutheranbrookings.org

We will be postponing the 1-year old, 2-year old, and Kindergarten steppingstones classes. We will work to create a class that families can engage in at home as we get closer to the April 18th and 19th dates.

Please keep checking our website, emails, our FB page and if you are not signed up for the church App, the instructions are included below. Pastor Dave sends out daily devotions, church news, updates and more in the general notifications, so I encourage you to turn that notification on.

Directions for the First Lutheran Church App:

- Go to the app store
- Search for first Lutheran Brookings or FLC Brookings (you will know you have the correct app if you see the "touch down Jesus" picture)
- Click the get button
- Once the app has been loaded ~ Click the open button
- When the app opens there will be three lines on the top left corner of the screen
- Touch the lines
- Touch the settings icon at the bottom of the list of functions
- Touch the notifications icon in the list that shows up
- Feel free to activate any of the areas that you would like to receive notices about
- The Faith Formations App will allow you to receive information from Faith Formations on Children's Ministry/Journey

**Some people have had difficulty getting the notifications to activate. You may need to go to the main settings area of your phone, find the app through notifications there. If you encounter difficulty accessing any of these areas, please let myself or Pastor Dave know. We will do our best to help you get what you need.





Scheduled Missions of the Month:

March - "Lutheran Disaster Response"

April - "My Neighbor"

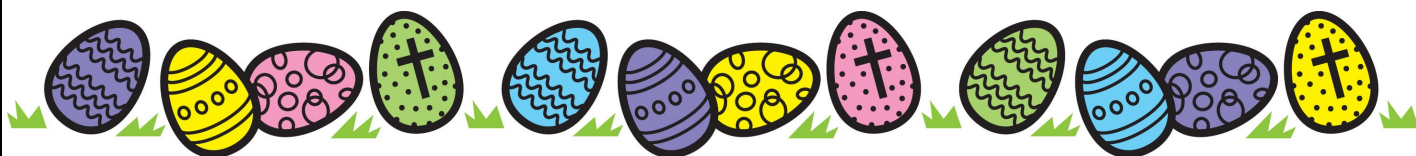
May - "Brookings County Food Pantry"

Greetings to all our patrons and friends, we miss you all!!! During this time of turmoil, we are all having a difficult time communicating to everyone and reaching out to give emotional and physical support. I am praying for the whole world to work together and do whatever is necessary to keep this virus contained to as few people as possible.

We did have a couple of very successful Lenten Lunch gatherings but have taken immediate action to discontinue them due to social distancing precautions. Thank you to all the patrons who attended and thank you to all the loyal volunteers. I would especially like to thank the core leaders in supporting me in the many areas of organization needed to make this a success.

Thank you to all the support from MCH staff and volunteers for all the support in the Coffeehouse, FLC members and staff for constant support, and Kool Beans for continuing to supply us with the freshly roasted, fair trade coffee beans.

I am looking forward to opening in the future and pray that God will bless you all with continued good health.

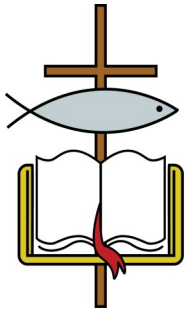


MCH Manager Jeanine Eclov presented a check in the amount of \$1,332.52 to Kyleigh Cramer, a representative of the Volunteer Service Bank, our January Mission of the Month. Thank you to our congregation and community for their support!



CLOSET & CUPBOARD

Thanks to our congregation and community, the Mission Coffeehouse tip jar collected \$1,069.03 for our February Mission of the Month, "Jack's Closet" and "Jack's Cupboard"!



The Membership Records of First Lutheran Church from February and March of 2020

Baptism:

Harper Jean Royer
(Child of Andrew and Kayla Royer)

Passings:

Clarke Blomberg
Wayne VanderWal
Adelaide Swanson
Elnore Johnson

New Members:

(Paperwork completed)
Eldon and Beverly Eilertson



THE FLC PRESCHOOL WILL REOPEN WHEN THE BROOKINGS PUBLIC SCHOOLS RESUME.

I am still accepting student registrations for the 2020/2021 school year. I encourage you to register soon. Some of our classes are already full. If you have any questions, please call the Preschool office at 697-2756.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, to everyone who has been saving **HyVee** receipts. Those receipts have a huge impact on our preschool program. We have already received \$4000 this school year!! The preschool truly appreciates yours' and HyVee's support!

FLC Preschool Director, SueAnn Mouw



February and March of 2020

Many memorials were received, but this is the list of memorials that remained at First Lutheran Church.

In memory of Jenny Hagen (daughter of Lou Plymate):

Pat and Dave Meyer, Alan and Julie Argust, Ray and Bev Pottratz, Pat Bergen, friends and family

In memory of Elaine Waples:

Russ and Jill Larson



WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE BLUE HOUSE?

The selling of the church owned property west of our church building, aka the "Blue House" at 325 8th St, is progressing. A buyer and the church have agreed to a selling price. The closing date for this transaction is expected, barring unexpected delays, within 30 days.



First Lutheran Church
PO Box 300
Brookings, SD 57006

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Brookings, SD
Permit No. 87

Return Service Requested

www.firstlutheranbrookings.org
Phone: 692-6251
Fax: 697-2760

X

If you have an article or information for the June/July Newsletter, please have it in to the church office no later than May 14!

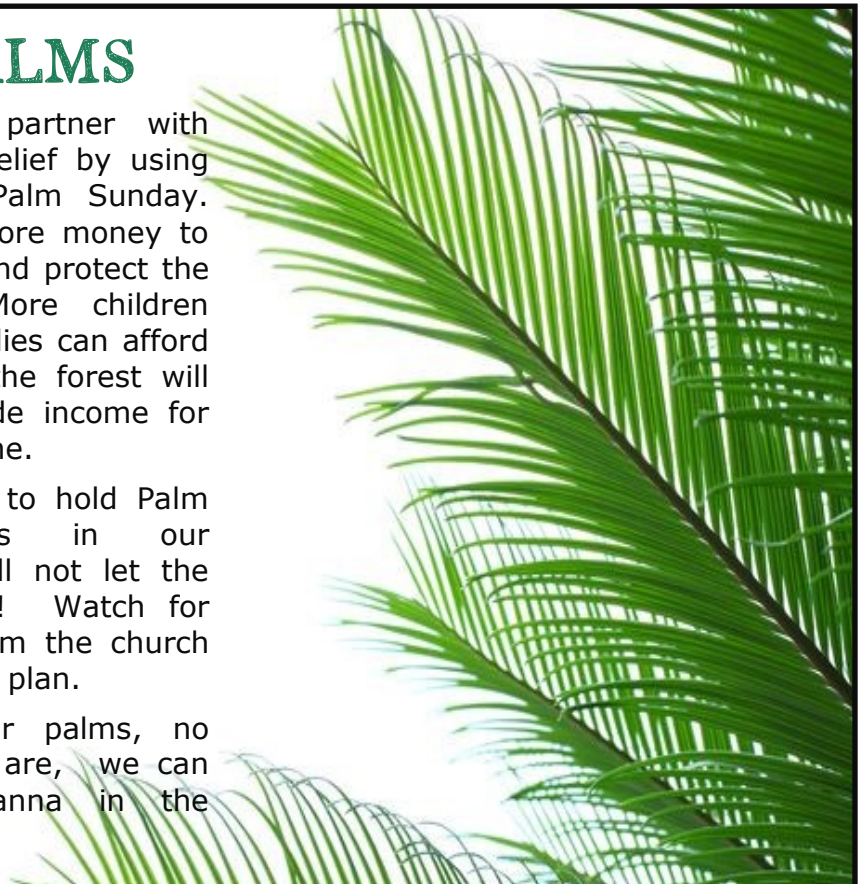
If you would like information put into the Sunday announcements, please have it in to the church office by the **Monday** before.
Thank you!

ECOPALMS

Every year we partner with Lutheran World Relief by using Eco-Palms for Palm Sunday. Eco-Palms give more money to palm harvesters and protect the environment. More children finish school, families can afford health care and the forest will continue to provide income for generations to come.

If we are unable to hold Palm Sunday services in our Sanctuary, we will not let the palms be wasted! Watch for emails coming from the church with an alternative plan.

As we wave our palms, no matter where we are, we can truly say, "Hosanna in the Highest!"



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