

**You Are Always Welcome Here
Just As You Are!**



MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Members of our military to keep in your prayers: Ryan Woods, Henry Kozak, Dustin Pawloski Reid Leslie (currently deployed)

May 10, 2020

Mother's Day Drive In Worship – On Sunday, May 31 we will have a ‘Pentecost’ Drive-In worship service at 9:00am and 11:00am in the church parking lot. This will be similar to our Easter Drive-In. For everyone’s safety, social distancing will be practiced and we ask that no one gets out of their car or come into the church building, please do not bring anyone in your car that is not a member of your household. Let’s get together and celebrate the Holy Spirit working in our world.

Giving Option – **Thank you so much for your continued tithing through Simply giving and via mail.** As a member of Memorial, you now have another option for giving. You can use the Vanco GivePlus Online program to setup one-time or recurring payments. This option is ideal for those who are not currently enrolled in the Simply Giving program or that want to donate any additional payments. Let us know if you have any questions about the program. *If you don't want to take advantage of these options, please continue to send in checks to Memorial to the extent you are able.*

As we are still moving forward with building work, thank you for staying committed to your giving to the Capital Campaign.

A Special Thank You to all our worship leaders who graciously volunteered their time today: Jenny Coy, Cindy Bunch, Sue Peters, Abby Pommeranz and Greg Silliman.

Contributions Needed Per Week:	\$6,307.25
Contributions Received Last Week:	\$4,314.65
Contributions Pledged thru 3-31-2020:	\$68,656.17
Contributions Received thru 3-31-2020:	\$65,517.35

Mother's Day
Drive-In Worship May 10, 2020
Memorial Lutheran Church

Gather

Opening Song: Ten Thousand Reasons

**Chorus: Bless the Lord oh my soul Oh my soul Worship His Holy name
Sing like never before Oh my soul I'll worship Your Holy name**

**The sun comes up It's a new day dawning It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass And whatever lies before me
Let me be singing When the evening comes (*chorus*)**

**You're rich in love And You're slow to anger
Your name is great And Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons For my heart to find (*chorus*)**

**And on that day When my strength is failing
The end draws near And my time has come
Still my soul will Sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years And forevermore (*chorus 1x*)**

Worship Your Holy name God I'll worship Your Holy name.

Call to worship

P. Friends of God, believe this – God loved the world, God loves the world, we are the beloved! May the truth of this great love story, shine through our worship today, and renew our sense of calling. So come, with your tiredness, your frustrations and your discouragements; come with your doubts, your fears, and your longings; come, to discover yet again how Jesus reveals God's love and mercy. Come, in friendship to God and to each other, and in friendship to the world, to listen for God's Word to us, to offer our prayers, and to renew our calling. Friends of God, let us worship, celebrating your Mothering love for us!

Trust In You” solo – Abby Pommeranz

Litany, Song of Praise and Opening Prayer (A=Jenny Coy)

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the mothering love of God, and the peace of the Holy Spirit be with you all. C. **and also with you.**

A. Gracious God, as a mother loves her child so you love us. For that great truth
C. **we praise and thank you.**

A. We owe our very lives to you. You have watched over us from our birth, tenderly nurturing us, showering us with love. When we have needed you, you have been there. For that great truth
C. **we praise and thank you.**

A. You have given us strength in times of need, comfort in times of distress, encouragement in times of despair, guidance in times of uncertainty. Whatever we have faced, you have been with us. For that great truth
C. **we praise and thank you.**

A. Gracious God, we have not always appreciated your love, all too often ignoring what you would teach us, disobeying your instructions, taking you for granted and wandering far from your side. Yet through it all your love has remained constant. For that great truth
C. **we praise and thank you.**

A. Gracious God, caring for us more than you care for yourself, sacrificing your all for our sakes, loving us with an unquenchable love, you have called us to be your children. For that great truth
C. **we praise and thank you, in the name of Christ. Amen**

Song of praise: “Now thank we all our God”

**Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices;
Who from our mothers’ arms has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is our today.**

Opening Prayer

A. Isaiah wrote that You are a mother to us, comforting and carrying us in your arms and that You would never forget us. You know each of us, like a mother knows her own children. David wrote that in Your presence, he was quiet and at peace, trusting his mother God like a child safe in loving arms. Jesus spoke of himself as a mother, longing to wrap his arms around us, like a mother hen gathers her chicks under her wings. Paul writes about his missionary ministry and likens his work to that of a nurse who looks after those in her care. We rejoice this day and call you

C. Loving Lord, and thank you for your tender care. Amen.

Word

Readings-Reader: Cindy Bunch (9 & 11)

Acts 7:55-60 ⁵⁵ But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ “Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” ⁵⁷ At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, ⁵⁸ dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he fell asleep.

1 Peter 2:2-10

² Like newborn babies, you should long for the pure milk of God’s word. It will help you grow up as believers. ³ You can do this now that you have tasted how good the Lord is.

⁴ Christ is the living Stone. People did not accept him, but God chose him. God places the highest value on him. ⁵ You also are like living stones. As you come to Christ, you are being built into a house for worship. There you will be holy priests. You will offer spiritual sacrifices. God will accept them because of what Jesus Christ has done. ⁶ In Scripture it says, “Look! I am placing a stone in Zion.

It is a chosen and very valuable stone. It is the most important stone in the building. The one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” (Isaiah 28:16)⁷ This stone is very valuable to you who believe. But to people who do not believe, “The stone the builders did not accept has become the most important stone of all.”⁸ And, “It is a stone that causes people to trip. It is a rock that makes them fall.” They trip and fall because they do not obey the message. That is also what God planned for them.⁹ But God chose you to be his people. You are royal priests. You are a holy nation. You are God’s special treasure. You are all these things so that you can give him praise. God brought you out of darkness into his wonderful light.¹⁰ Once you were not a people. But now you are the people of God. Once you had not received mercy. But now you have received mercy.

Gospel Verse: Halle Halle Halle-lujah (repeat 4x) Hallelujah, Hallelujah

John 14:1-14

14 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God. Believe in me also.
² There are many rooms in my Father’s house. If this were not true, would I have told you that I am going there? Would I have told you that I would prepare a place for you there? ³ If I go and do that, I will come back. And I will take you to be with me. Then you will also be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going. So how can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you really know me, you will know my Father also. From now on, you do know him. And you have seen him.”
⁸ Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father. That will be enough for us.”
⁹ Jesus answered, “Don’t you know me, Philip? I have been among you such a long time! Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. So how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Don’t you believe that I am in the Father? Don’t you believe that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. The Father lives in me. He is the one who is doing his work. ¹¹ Believe me when I say I am in the Father. Also believe that the Father is in me. Or at least believe what the works I have been doing say about me. ¹² What I’m about to tell you is true. Anyone who believes in me will do the works I have been doing. In fact, they will do even greater things. That’s because I am going to the Father. ¹³ And I will do

anything you ask in my name. Then the Father will receive glory from the Son.
¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name. I will do it.

Children's Time (Sue Peters 11am & YouTube)

Message

Mother's Day 2020 John 14:1-14

Something I have experienced in my life is that Mothers Listen. You can go to your mother, or that special woman or even man in your life that mothers you and she or he will listen to you. You can bring your sorrows, your troubles, and your joys and triumphs and mother will listen. That's one way that God created and planned for all of us: mothers bear you as a newborn, and bear you and your burdens as you grow and even after you mature. There are those special people who are always there for you. It's God's gift, it's God's calling, it's part of His plan.

Today, I want to challenge you. Perhaps, you are not usually the one people go to, or one who usually is a person that gets to listen to others--But I want to ask you to seek an opportunity: in the coming days I ask you to be a listener. Take time to listen to people just for one day with a mother's heart. You will be surprised about how many troubles people have: trouble in their personal lives, trouble in their family, trouble at work, trouble at school. Just listen, you don't need to solve or give advice, just listen. Listen with your heart, share what you heard with that person, give comfort, give support, give love, give the gift of peace, lift their troubles with your listening heart. You, Memorial, are the body of Christ, You, beloved, are the bridge from this world to God's kingdom.

We learned this from Jesus. Jesus knew his disciples were or would be troubled. One would betray Him. Another would deny Him. Jesus spoke about leaving them. But, in the midst of all these troubles, Jesus gave peace to their troubled hearts. A troubled world needs to listen to the Master and needs to listen to each other. Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled." Jesus is not talking about the physicality of life, He is referring to the personal foundation of spiritual life--the center of faith and commitment. God gives hope, God gives love, God gives peace, we can go to Him at any time and receive that listening ear, and that hope, love and peace in the midst of our crisis and then return to be like Him and do unto others.

During times of great trouble God's people get agitated and distressed. Jesus told them that for years they had trusted in God. They should not stop trusting. Keep on trusting in God even during tough times. Trouble provides an opportunity to trust in the Lord. It is not why we have trouble, but it is the gift from God in any situation. We have a God we can trust. He listens, He comforts, He provides.

With all the pressures in our society today, it is no wonder that so many people are troubled. But, keep on trusting in God, He will see us through our tough times and help us to be there for others.

The disciples in our reading were worried about the future. Jesus promised the disciples that He was going to provide dwelling places for His people in the heavenly world. There will be no shortage of space. God's people do not need to be troubled about their future. Jesus will take care of the future.

If we can trust Jesus to take care of the future, then why are we so worried about the present? Do we think He can't take care of us here? Do we feel that we must take care of ourselves? I think our egos are sometimes so big we think we are in this alone, no one, not even God is necessary, needed, or able to do what we can do ourselves. Yes, we do need to be wise and help ourselves, but we don't have to do it alone. Contrary to what many believe, the Bible does not say "God helps those who help themselves." If this were true, then God would turn His back on many people. I don't know what kind of a god you serve, but my God would never do that. My God is good and constantly looks out for us, and asks us to look out for others, and puts others and us in place to help us and for us to help.

God puts people in our life: mother's, other women, men, guardians, surrogates, even our children. You know the term "it takes a village to raise a child". Well, I believe that it takes a village, a community, the body of Christ to sustain our lives. We were created in families, in communities to work together.

What a gift, but know you are that gift too. Watch the ego, watch the traditions, watch what the world says, listen to what God says and how He fulfills His word. You are personally responsible for each other. Remember that Jesus loved beyond sin, beyond judgement. He called us to live for the kingdom, not our kingdom, but God's. Also, no one is perfect all the time, try to see past the ugly. Care for each other, note that something may need prayer, may need intervention, might need correction...through the eyes of God's love, not His judgement. Don't judge yourself or someone else that's God's job, but love and nurture, and give yourself and others a break when you or they are not quite there yet.

Sometimes it's hard to like some people, sometimes it's hard even to like our mothers, our families, our friends. We don't always agree, or maybe some of us aren't capable to use the wisdom God gives in every situation, so it's hard to like them. Or maybe I should say it is hard to like everything about them. But I want you to hear this, it's not hard to love them. We don't have to agree to love. We don't have to be exactly the same to love. We don't have to have the same traditions or education, or societal choices to love one another. Life is simply not that easy. We are different, we all have troubles, but love is bigger than all the differences, all the difficulties, all the challenges. Love, don't judge. Share with each other the differences, the difficulties, and work together. That's what mothers do, that's what Jesus does, and that's what we are called to do.

We have a big God who sees beyond our own foibles, even our sin, and sees love. We can go to Him at any time and receive understanding, kindness, grace, love and correction. We are called to do the same. Be a listener, a comforter, a lover, a forgiver, a maker of peace. Be a mother, a friend, a fellow disciple. Be a bridge, my beloved. Sit and listen to our God. Sit and listen to each other. Love and be blessed today, this Mother's Day, and every day. Amen.

Song: For the Beauty of the Earth

**1. For the beauty of the earth, For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth Over and around us lies,**

(Chorus) Lord of all, to thee we raise This our hymn of grateful praise.

**2. For the beauty of each hour Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flow'r, Sun and moon, and stars of light, (Chorus)**

**3. For the joy of human love, Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above, For all gentle thoughts and mild,
(Chorus)**

Response

The Peace

P. The Peace of our God be with you all. **C. And also with you.**

Prayers of the People--The lighting of five candles

Candle 1. is lit:

A. Nurturing God, we light this candle in recognition of the great care and love you have for each one of us.

C. Nurturing God, we praise and thank you.

Candle 2. is lit:

A. Nurturing God, we light this candle in thanksgiving for all mothers, for all they do, or once did, for all they give, or once gave and for all they mean and will always mean.

C. Nurturing God, we praise and thank you.

Candle 3. is lit:

A. Nurturing God, we light this candle for all families throughout the world. Nurture those peoples where there is disaster, war and strife. Nurture our military and give them strength and hope.

C. Nurturing God, we praise and thank you.

Candle 4. is lit:

A. Nurturing God, we light this candle for the family of the Church, here and everywhere. Nurture our Bishop, our pastors, our church leaders our World leaders and all who need your care.

C. Nurturing God, we praise and thank you.

Candle 5. is lit:

A. Nurturing God, we light this candle for all who nurture and encourage others especially our medical teams everywhere. We pray for our sick...surround and nurture them.

C. Nurturing God, we praise and thank you.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day

our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Sending

Blessing

P. Praise God who loves us. C. Praise God who cares.

P. May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless us: may God, who became incarnate by an earthly mother, bless us: may God, who broods as a mother over her children, bless us. May almighty God bless us, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. C. Amen.

Closing Song: “Go my Children with my Blessing”

**Go, My children, with My blessing, Never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are My own.
In My love’s baptismal river I have made you Mine forever.
Go, My children, with My blessing– You are My own.**

**I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you And give you peace:
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, My children; I will keep you And give you peace.**

**Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure.
Here you heard My dear Son’s story; Here you touched Him, saw His glory.
Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.**

**Go, My children, fed and nourished, Closer to Me;
Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free.
Here My Spirit’s power filled you; Here His tender comfort stilled you.
Go, My children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.**

Dismissal

A. Go in Peace. C. **Serve the Lord**