



The Evangel

Vol. 37, Edition 5

May 2020

**Our Saviour
Lutheran Church**
*is a congregation of the
Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America.*

*We welcome all
to share in life with Christ
as a community
of faith in mission.*

OSLC's Vision & Mission

*God calls us to be a community of
discipleship for all, making Christ's
love real in our daily lives.*

*Grow in faith and Christian calling
Love and serve God and neighbor
Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ*

Worship Online

May 3, 2020 10:00 AM
May 10, 2020 10:00 AM
May 17, 2020 10:00 AM
May 24, 2020 10:00 AM
May 31, 2020 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/
j/86827316341?
pwd=a1d6M3Y1cFAROUi4Q3U2b
mZhVExVdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86827316341?pwd=a1d6M3Y1cFAROUi4Q3U2bmZhVExVdz09)

Meeting ID: 868 2731 6341
Password: 300WestF

*Randy Schroeder, Pastor
Michael Vinson, Campus Pastor*

Caring for Self and Others in Times of Trouble: More Tools and Tips

Pastor Kerri McFarland from St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Louisville, shares how she is practicing self-care:

If the sun is shining and our work is done for the day – we head outside. (Jason and I average at least two walks a day right now.) It has always been grounding and a blessing to me to be able to enjoy the glories of God's creation – but this year I am finding it particularly helpful. It is so easy to feel lost and unmoored when our routines change and the news is so terrifyingly bleak. And yet – when I step outside and I see the sun shining and hear the birds singing and our sons laughing – I am reminded that God is still with us. We are not in this strange – unprecedented time alone.

God is here. God is with us. God has promised that he will never leave us or forsake us. Not ever.

And for me – green grass and trees starting to grow their summer leaves and even the bright yellow dandelions and purple violets that grow in our yard (I am a hippy and refuse to spray toxic chemicals where my children play and roll around!) remind me that God is still God – no matter what this life brings.

What reminds you that God is with you always? How are you reminding yourself of God's eternal presence in your life during these difficult times?



Maybe for you it is music. So listen to your favorite songs over and over and over again. Or sing. Or make music. Or do all three. Host a concert for your family. Sing some tunes. Jam – rock out – play air guitar – dance in your socks in the living room!

Maybe for you it is your family and friends. Even in these times of social distancing you can call, text, Facetime, Zoom, and send cards. Reach out to your loved ones.

Perhaps for you it is reading. Then dig in and read. And while you are at it – don't forget the greatest book of all – the Bible! Jason has been listening to a great Bible podcast.

Is it art? Then get online and tour the great museums of the world and then make some art of your own inspired by the art you saw online. We are always up to our elbows in art projects at the McFarland house and it feels great.

Whatever it is that helps you feel closer to God – that reminds you of God's presence in your life, make the time for it. Seek God's presence – because he is near. God is with you. God loves you.

Colossians 3:15-16 (NRSV)

¹⁵ *And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.* ¹⁶ *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.*



Grace, mercy and peace from our Creator and Savior Jesus the Christ be with you.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Glory to God in the highest! As we are in full swing of the Easter Season and celebrating the empty tomb; we are also filled with questions and fear about the pandemic. We are separated in our homes and our lives are anything but normal.

If you're anything like me, you are filled with questions. How long with this pandemic go on? How will our lives change after the pandemic is over? Why is it so challenging to focus and get things done? When will I feel safe again? When can I go out to eat with the family? How will this coronavirus impact the lives of my children? These are questions for which I don't have the answers.

Once again, I say, peace be with you... breathe ...

Because we do not have answers to these questions, let's focus on things we do know. We know: We are in this together (probably the one thing in our lifetime which shows world commonality). God loves all of us. We are to love each other as Jesus loves us. These are things we know.

Isaiah 43: 15-21 - I am the LORD, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King. ¹⁶ Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, ¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: ¹⁸ Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. ¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. ²⁰ The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, ²¹ the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

So, where do you see God in our context? I ask you to look for at least one place where you see God in your life each day. Begin to write them down. If you can't think of anything, dream where you might with little effort and make it happen. Remember what it is and share it with someone. If you are willing, share it with our congregation at the next coffee hour after worship. If that is not something you're comfortable doing, share it with your family or friend. As we share where we see God, it will give us peace, patience and hope as we walk into the future together.

We are in this together, supported by God and God's inclusive love. Thank you for your continued support and willingness to try new things as we journey together.

Peace be with you and your family now and always.

Pastor Randy

The Indiana-Kentucky Synod Website shares some resources for coping with the "stay at home" order. Among them is a link to Deacon Hope Moran's blog, *Notes of Hope*, <https://www.hopemoran.com/> Hope is the Director of Ministries at Messiah Lutheran Church in Brownsburg, IN. She shares how she is practicing self-care:



Being a person who takes comfort, and finds relaxation, in writing and journaling, I decided that each day while working at home I would take a "Walk of Hope" around downtown Indianapolis. As I walk, I look for a sign of hope in my world. That clears my mind from so many Zoom meetings and helps me stay focused on the present. Once home I write about my walk, where I saw hope, and how I saw God in that hope. This gets posted every evening to my blog (Notes of Hope at www.hopemoran.com) and my Facebook page. It has not only helped me care for myself, but others have commented on how helpful it has been for them.

**Council Highlights
April 8, 2020**



- Zoom services have gone well. Folks are appreciative of the work of those planning and implementing the worship services.
- The Evangelism Ministry Team met via Zoom and is working on new banners for the vestibule.
- The OSLC staff is working from home, but also ensuring that the mail is collected and the answering machine is checked.
- Steve Belter has submitted an application for a SBA loan.



With the approval of the Church Council, the Finance Ministry Team applied for a loan from the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). We will use the \$24,175 proceeds to pay our employees' May and June paychecks, and our utility bills. If we abide by the SBA rules, we expect the PPP loan to be forgiven sometime this summer.

If the SBA forgives our PPP loan, and if contributions from our membership continue, we should be in a good position not only to pay our employees and bills, but to accelerate or increase our financial support for Purdue Lutheran Ministry, Lafayette Urban Ministry, Indiana-Kentucky Synod and Mission Guatemala.

Assuming your income hasn't stopped due to the pandemic, please continue sending your offering by mail to the church (300 W Fowler Ave, WL 47906) or online (www.osluth.org). Just click the "Give: Your Offering Made Easy" button on the home page.

Thank you for all that you do and thank you for your financial support that makes our ministry possible, even during a pandemic.

-- Steve Belter, seb@wintek.com

Reminder: Don't forget to sign-up for RightNow.org subscription. It is a free subscription for friends of OSLC (includes members and guests/friends/family) Email Angie Henderson any questions you may have to: angie@osluth.org. Here's the link to activate your subscription:
<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/OurSaviour>

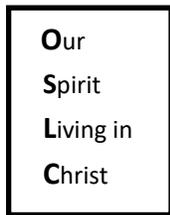


Each year, AAMI (The Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation®) and the AAMI Foundation recognize health technology's best and brightest for their leadership, dedication, and contributions to AAMI and their fields. This year our very own **Ted Heise** won a Standards Developer Award. Congratulations, Ted! We're proud of you!

First Quarter Financial Report

For the first three months of 2020, the church received \$75,759.62 in contributions and spent \$83,293.15 on expenses for a deficit of \$7,533.53. Offerings for the first quarter were 92.4% of our projected income. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

— Finance Ministry Team



A Pastoral Letter from Bishop William O. Gafkjen to the People and Friends of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod regarding the Way through the Wilderness



While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel..." Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, Jesus interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. [Luke 24:15-20] Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."
[John 20:21]

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Dear People of God of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod,

As we continue our journey through the fifty days of Easter, I must admit that I am weary of walking the coronavirus wilderness. I have little doubt that you are weary, too. This has been such a challenging time as we live at a distance from one another with so much anxiety and uncertainty, in a world where borders and boundaries – of time and space, work and home, self and relationships – have become so ambiguous and, in some cases, indiscernible. Not to mention that many of us are concerned about the future of our congregations and ministries and the way forward is so unclear.

Yet, as Easter people – those who know both the agony of loss and fear and the power and presence of the One who appears behind locked doors and comes up alongside those who walk the way of dashed hopes and deflated dreams – we are empowered to move forward together, trusting that God is present and rendering resurrection even now, giving ourselves away the best that we can in cross-shaped love and service to our neighbor, and being patient and intentional in living one step at a time into God's unfolding future. After all, I don't think Jesus was talking only about the afterlife when he proclaimed and promised, "*Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also*" (John 14:1-3). Already Jesus is circling back from preparing a place for us in the future to take us to himself and into that dwelling place just over the horizon.

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

As conversation and debate have begun about "reopening America" and we begin imagining when and how we will move forward faithfully in our life together as the body of Christ, it is more important than ever to be patient, intentional, prayerful, Christ-centered and cross-focused, and committed to the common good and the well-being of every neighbor. I am convinced by medical leaders, including the CDC, that we will not be able to just flip a switch and be back to what we once knew as normal. This will be a slow, gradual, months-long process and its pace will be different in different places across the synod territory.

I am also convinced that the "new normal" we are beginning to move toward will be very different from life before Lent 2020. Isaiah's words (43:17ff) on God's behalf, which I have so often referred to over the last nine years, are as important for us to hear now as they were for our ancient ancestors in faith who languished in exile.

Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

Continued on page 5

This passage follows Isaiah's recounting of the way God delivered God's people previously, through the Red Sea and wilderness wanderings. Is God suggesting that the people forget those stories of past deliverance? I don't think so. The stories – like the stories we tell one another about how God got us or our congregation through an incredibly hard time in the past – remind us that God delivers, God saves, God makes a way and a place for God's people. But the next deliverance, the next way and place, will look and be different from the last one. If we expect and look for the new normal to be the same as the previous normal, we may very well miss the new things that God is doing among and through us, as well as the new ways we are called to be the body of Christ.

In many ways, this tragic crisis is accelerating the deep and significant changes in the ways we are and will be church together, how we proclaim and embody the Good News of Jesus crucified and risen for the life of the world, and how we love and serve and work with our neighbors. God is at work, even now, and will continue to lead us forward. Discerning the path forward calls for patience and intentionality, prayer and collaboration, trust in God and cruciform commitment to the well-being of our neighbor.

As both governors begin to consider how and when things will reopen, I invite all the leaders, congregations, and ministries of the Indiana-Kentucky mission territory, to be aware of and to align with the recommendations, guidelines, and mandates that are and will be in place. This is going to be a long rolling-out; some people think perhaps as long as 6, 8, or even 18 months. It is crucial that we not endanger ourselves or anyone else by lunging headlong into in-person gatherings without due consideration, caution, and care. In coming days and weeks, my office will offer some guidelines and suggestions for gentle, gradual, helpful, and healthy ways to ease into new realities. For now, it is crucial that deacons, pastors, other leaders and ministers, and congregational leadership and members begin prayerful conversation about next steps. Here are some resources that may be helpful for you to share and discuss:

- 24 questions to consider before people return: <https://bit.ly/2zq744s>. This blog post is from a Baptist Christian educator. His context and theology are a bit different from most of ours, but he asks some important questions. Review of his questions may also spark other questions that you need to consider for your particular community. I would add, for example, “What have we learned from this experience that can shape our future?” and “What is sustainable in the practices we've developed and engaged, and what do we need to let go?”
- The CDC is reminding us that water in unused buildings can become contaminated. They recommend that someone stop by the church to flush toilets and run faucets occasionally: <https://bit.ly/2XZ4EEb>
- Indiana Stay-At-Home FAQ: <https://www.in.gov/gov/3232.htm>
- The CDC's “Opening Up America Again”: <https://bit.ly/2Y16a8S>
- Indiana Guidelines and Recommendations for Places of Worship: <https://bit.ly/3cH7NMP>
- “Coming Back Together as Congregations,” recommendations from three Texas ELCA bishops: <https://bit.ly/2KsLcI3>
- The Indiana-Kentucky Synod's online collection of resources related to COVID-19: <https://iksynod.org/covid-19-resources/>

Like the disciples walking the road to Emmaus, we are in this together and for the long haul, dear people of God. The crucified and risen Jesus walks with us to draw us deep into God's Word, into our companionship and collaboration with one another, into our love for our neighbors, and into the future. I give thanks to God for you and pray for you daily (and more!).

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Peace be with you,
The Rev. Dr. William O. Gafkjen, Bishop

A Second Letter from Bishop Bill

April 29, 2020

Dear People of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod,

As the month of May approaches, many of us find ourselves wondering with increasing intensity when and how we will be able to gather again. With you, I yearn for the day when we can be in the same space together, praying, singing, sharing the Word and the sacraments, fellowshiping and serving. But, we still have some distance to go through this wilderness. While we await word from the governors of Kentucky and Indiana on their stay-at-home orders and phasing in of business and gatherings, I invite all of us to consider the following:

- ◆ I strongly recommend that congregations and other ministries not gather in-person until sometime in June. This includes worship as well as other aspects of being the body of Christ in local settings. Synod staff will also continue the suspension of travel through the month of May. If someone from my office is scheduled to be with you or your congregation during that time, please be in touch with them to make other arrangements.
- ◆ I also strongly recommend that leaders begin planning for gentle, gradual, and intentional processes of moving toward in-person gatherings. This planning must be rooted in guidance from the CDC and from our civic authorities as well as our theological commitments and concern for the common good and service to our neighbor. In previous communications, I have shared resources to assist with this planning, including the Kentucky and Indiana COVID19 websites. As more such resources become available, we will share them and post them to the synod's COVID19 website: <https://iksynod.org/covid-19-resources/>.
- ◆ I also encourage you to reach out to your neighboring congregations and their leaders, including ecumenical partners. Share ideas as well as ministry. Offer resources. Lament together. Encourage one another.
- ◆ Consider reaching out to synod staff for help in sorting through what worship or meetings or other gatherings might look like in your local context.
- ◆ Assume that we will not be able to simply flip a switch and return to what was before. Our life together as the body of Christ and in service to our neighbors is going to be very different moving forward. Be humble and gentle with one another in your planning. Honor each other's emotional responses to changes in your life as a community of faith. Make space for lament. Welcome moments of joy. Help each other live into hope. Learn from this journey through the coronavirus wilderness and let the learning lead you forward. Trust that God is at work in this time and look for the new things God is doing even now.

In an early treatise entitled *On the Good of Patience*, the Bishop Cyprian suggested that when Christians entrusted themselves to the patient God, who steadfastly and persistently continues to work hope, healing, and reconciliation in the world, and lived patiently with themselves and others, they shone with the light of Christ in ways that both ran against the impatience of the cultures in which they lived and drew others into the community of Christ. May God give us such patience and peace now and in the days ahead!

Peace be with you,
The Rev. Dr. William O. Gafkjen, Bishop

MAY UPDATES



Volume 6; Issue 41 5/1/20

Upcoming Events

- ⇒ **Sunday, May 3rd:
Teacher Apprecia-
tion Sunday**
- ⇒ **Sunday, May 10th:
Mother's Day**
- ⇒ **Monday, May 18th:
Adult Forum 7 P.M.**

(See the box below for the Pints with a Pastor schedule.)

VBS Has Been Cancelled for 2020

ALL ABOARD!! “Rocky Railway” VBS has been canceled for 2020 due to the continued social distancing suggestions/mandates. Plan to board the train with us next summer!

Adult Forum on Monday, May 18th at 7 P.M. by Zoom

Join Emily Ohland to learn more about what it means to be welcoming to the LGBTQ+ community. Discussion will include what vocabulary is appropriate, ways that we can be meaningfully transparent in our welcome, and working toward being at ease in making a safe space for diverse Christians.

Faith Formation Resources and Staying Connected

- **Pints with a Pastor (Pastor Randy):** By Zoom for three different age groups (see the box below for specifics).
- **Facebook**-“Like” OSLC’s page for updates and upcoming events: <https://www.facebook.com/osluth/>
- **Illustrated Ministry** (faith resources for church & home)- FREE resources at: <https://illstrtdm.in/covid19>
- **RightNow Media** (Bible studies, devotions, video resources for individuals and families)-FREE OSLC membership: <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/account/invite/OurSaviour>

Contact Information for Angie Henderson, Director of Christian Education and Outreach:

EMAIL: angie@osluth.org Church: 765-743-2931 Cell/Home: 402-213-9157

Three Ways to Have Pints with a Pastor

Here are three fellowship opportunities for various age groups. If you’d like to participate, send Pastor Randy an email (randy@osluth.org) and he will send you a Zoom invite.



- **Pints with a Pastor** will take place on Monday May 11th and 25th @ 6:56 P.M. for adults.
- May 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th will be **Pint-Sized with a Pastor** at 3:26 P.M. for elementary schoolers.
- May 3rd, (off on Mother’s Day) 17th, 24th will be **M&H Pints with a Pastor** for middle and high schoolers at 6:26 P.M..

Family Promise Update

Hello friends,

I hope this finds you and your family well despite the craziness of the COVID-19 pandemic around us. I just wanted to take some time to touch base and give an update on what has been going on with Family Promise. However, before I get to the updates, I just want to personally extend my sincere gratitude for the support and concern that you have shown to the Family Promise program, staff, and even my own family. The support in this community is great and I am grateful to be here.

COVID has changed the way that we operate here at Family Promise. We miss seeing our volunteers during the week, meal-time, and even the occasional visits we receive just to see how we are doing and if there are any needs. Gathering and rallying together to offer encouragement in support to help families in our community succeed is what we do, it just looks a bit differently now. As a precaution, I stopped volunteer sign-ups and meals mid-March. This was an attempt to lessen the potential spread, even before shelter in place and social distancing was mandated in our area and pretty much nationwide. We were blessed to simply ask local restaurants if they could help us with meals and many answered the call. We also reached out to community partners to help us with masks because orders have been backlogged extending into late May and even June and once again, people stepped up. I sent an email about monetary donations, supplies and even the hard-to-find thermometers and again, you all delivered.

Up until April 1, we operated a full house of five families, averaging at least 20 people per day. Now, we are operating at half capacity in shelter to support social distancing. It's just not smart to have 20 plus people in one house during this time. We are working with Lafayette Transitional Housing to shelter people in hotels for a while before bringing them to shelter. This helps us to monitor symptoms as best we can before we bring them to shelter. However, even with this plan, at least for the next month, we will only house three families in shelter, but we will continue to provide case management, resources, and support to at least two other families in hotels as well.

If anything, it is even more evident that pandemics do not stop crisis. People still need help. In fact, once moratorium on evictions end, stimulus and unemployment benefits end, we anticipate seeing a sharp increase in people needing assistance. Knowing this, we are working with local, state, and even national partners to plan as best as we can for the upswing. I will continue to keep you all abreast of changes that we will be making. We are still collecting personal hygiene supplies, cleaning supplies, and monetary donations. Also, if you would like to "sponsor" a dinner by providing the ingredients or purchasing from a local restaurant on any Monday or Friday in May or June, please contact me. Additionally, our annual Homeward Bound walk was virtual this year! The walk and giving ended on Wednesday 4/22.

Lastly, our case manager, Allison, and our shelter caretaker, Dave will be leaving us within the next few weeks. Both have been great additions to the team here at Family Promise and will be greatly missed. If you know anyone with social work experience and may be a good fit for the work, we do here at Family Promise, please have them contact me.

Once again, thank you for your support. I am encouraged and our hands are strengthened to extend help with a spirit of compassion and excellence.

Be safe, be encouraged, and continue to practice social distancing and wash your hands!

Nakeshia J. Hedrick, Executive Director
Family Promise of Greater Lafayette, Inc.
2010 Elmwood Ave.
Lafayette, IN 47904

(765) 838-3651 — fpglinc.org



Here's how you can help Family Promise right now:

Donations

- *In your offering at OSLC
- *Online - <http://www.fpglinc.org/>
- *Facebook - family promise of greater lafayette

Hygiene and cleaning products

- Anti-bacterial hand soap
- Disinfectant wipes
- Bleach
- Gloves - all sizes
- Personal hygiene items (deodorant, mouthwash, body wash, etc.)
- Cleaning supplies

How can you provide these?

⇒Donate as shown above.

⇒Order online and ship. Or purchase and mail. Address: Family Promise of Greater Lafayette, Inc., C/O Nakeshia Hedrick, Executive Director, 2010 Elmwood Ave., Lafayette, IN 47904.

⇒Buy any of these products and drop off at OSLC. Put them in the Fellowship Hall by the sign that says "Family Promise Donations". (Julie Huetteman will deliver donations to the Family Promise house every Friday.)

Please continue your support for the services to our homeless families. Information will be shared as the situation evolves.

If you have questions, please email juliehuetteman@gmail.com.

Thank you,
Julie Huetteman
765-491-7819

Mission Guatemala Update

No matter what country or corner of the world any of us are in right now, there is no doubt that COVID-19 has impacted us. In ways big and small, the normal rhythms of our previous lives have been deeply altered during this time. I came back to Guatemala on a half-empty plane the day before the Guatemalan travel ban was implemented on March 16, a flight which ended with the odd new travel experience of each of our body-temperatures being checked by gowned medical personnel before we were allowed to exit the plane. Two weeks later, I emerged from self-quarantine at the River House in Panajachel to a strangely silent country.

There was palpable tension in the air—but limited movement in the streets—as public transportation, schools, churches, and many businesses had been closed by presidential edict on March 17, along with strict restrictions on gatherings and travel. Conversations in the street invariably included discussions of concern over what future the virus held for the country, combined with expressions of fear of the economic pain that the drastic restrictions being implemented held for so many workers whose jobs and livelihood depended on people being able to move freely, to mingle in the streets, eat in restaurants, and patronize businesses. Especially in an area of the country that derives a vast aspect of its jobs and income from tourism, there was no doubt that the economic impact of the measures would be overwhelming.

For this reason, we knew Mission Guatemala's work continued to be as vital as ever. There was no doubt that during this time, even more than before, we needed to continue to look for ways to love and serve our brothers and sisters here, while ensuring the safety and protection of our staff and the communities and also respecting the directives of the government. Our clinic has continued to be open until midday, with Dr. Lidia and the rest of the staff providing care for patients with pressing health needs, in order to reduce the risk of greater exposure by forcing them to travel a farther distance to find care. In addition, by maintaining access to the clinic, we are able to ensure continued affordable access to medicine for those with chronic illnesses such as diabetes or high blood pressure. When possible, Dr. Lidia has also provided consultations telephonically, in order to reduce the need for individuals to leave their houses.

In addition, we have continued distributing our Chispuditos nutritional supplement to families in our “Niños Chispuditos” program, along with packages of Pack Away Hunger rice food product. Marily and Devorah have coordinated with the community leadership and with the mothers of each family to find suitable ways to distribute the food so that it would limit the need for mothers or children to gather as a group.

In the weeks since all public and private schools have been closed, the computer teacher for our daily computer classes for students from the public middle and high schools in San Andrés has been working to provide instruction for students online while the schools are closed. And at the clinic, Elias, Mission Guatemala's construction supervisor, has worked to convert an old dilapidated bathroom onsite to serve as a shower and laundry area, in order to ensure that the clinic staff are able to follow recommended protocols before going home, in order to help protect their families.

As is the case in much of the world right now, the access to personal protective equipment is limited here in Guatemala, so we have begun to explore ways we can produce masks, face shields, and other types of PPE to help meet this need. And now, with the implementation of a new requirement this week that each and every person in Guatemala wear a face mask at all times (with a fine of \$910 to \$19,480 for those who do not comply), the need for quality, reusable masks is greater than ever.

In these strange and difficult days that we are living, we are grateful to our incredible staff for their flexibility and willingness to work together to find ways to continue to serve in the midst of this crisis. And we are ever grateful as well to all those whose support and prayers have ensured that during this time Mission Guatemala is able to continue loving and serving our brothers and sisters here and doing all the good we can, together.

En la lucha seguiremos, juntos—Continuing in the fight, together...

Dave Burns, Executive Director



On Tuesday, May 5th, nonprofits around the world are participating in **#GivingTuesdayNow**, a global day of charity organized as an emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic. **Our goal will not be to raise a huge amount of money in a single day.**

Instead, we'll simply be asking you to join us and say "*¡Cuenta Conmigo!*" (Count On Me!), through your support of Mission Guatemala with a recurring monthly gift. With your recurring gift of ANY amount, you will make a huge impact and help Mission Guatemala weather this storm.

Our staff will be broadcasting throughout the day on Facebook Live from Guatemala, giving you a chance to see some of the work we're doing right now to help our community here .

Can we count on you?

Death via COVID-19, 2020

Alone
Proned
Sedated in ICU
Husband
Grandpa

Alone
Exposed, reposed
Quarantined at home
Wife
Grandma

She says: "The grandkids think Grandpa went to the hospital
to get well
not die!"

The nurses say: "Its time...,
We'll make hand prints for the children."

A silent pause
a wail of grief
like a shrill siren
rises from the office speaker phone
"OH-----MY-----GOD....."
piercing the ear of
unprotected hearts

She arrives.
Covid-19 intimately closer than six feet
Death is masked and gloved
soon six feet under
Eternity also lies reposed—waiting

by Cindy Modlin Adams
Palliative Care
Nurse Practitioner
April 2020

*¹God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.*

*²Therefore we will not fear,
though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
³though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.*

Psalm 46:1 -3

A Letter from Our Missionary

At this time of global pandemic, I would like to share some words of the Reformer, Dr Martin Luther, from his treatise, “The Freedom of a Christian” (*Luther’s Works*, vol. 31, pp 367-38):

“Although I am an unworthy and condemned man, my God has given me in Christ all the riches of righteousness and salvation without any merit on my part, out of pure, free mercy, so that from now on I need nothing except faith which believes that this is true. Why should I not therefore freely, joyfully, and with all my heart and with an eager will do all things which I know are pleasing and acceptable to such a Father who has overwhelmed me with his inestimable riches? I will therefore give myself as a Christ to my neighbor, just as Christ offered himself to me; I will do nothing in this life except what I see is necessary, profitable, and salutary to my neighbor, since through faith I have an abundance of all good things in Christ.”
Behold, from faith thus flow forth love and joy in the Lord, and from love a joyful, willing and free mind that serves one’s neighbor. . . . He most freely and most willingly spends himself and all that he has, whether he wastes all on the thankless or whether he gains a reward. . . .

Here Luther essentially tells us that Christian life is to be understood in light of Jesus’ Cross. The mercy of God revealed in Christ’s death and resurrection so overwhelms us that this same mercy fills and shapes our lives, especially our relationships with others. Knowing ourselves to be redeemed and justified in Jesus Christ, we desire only to serve our neighbors, putting their interests ahead of our own (Philippians 2:4).

The COVID-19 crisis has presented us with many emotional and economic challenges. Consequently we might lose sight of who we are as God’s redeemed people. It might be more difficult to put our neighbors’ needs ahead of our own, as the world collapses into just “me” and “my needs.” Yet the reality of Jesus risen from the dead, celebrated in our liturgy of Word and Sacrament, reminds us that we never stop being God’s redeemed people. Accordingly, the need to live out the implications of our new life in Christ does not cease—in fact, the matter is more urgent now, even with the pressures we feel. Yes, we have a “right” to protest and express our frustrations with lockdowns and restrictions. But our neighbors—especially the aged and the infirm—need an environment that is safe from disease, where people obey the governing authorities (Romans 13:1), and restrictions are not wantonly disregarded in the name of expressing one’s “rights.” At the very least, if we must protest publicly we would do so responsibly by maintaining physical distancing and by wearing masks. More so, we would intentionally look to the needs of the poor and elderly in our communities and provide what relief and support that we can. This is what it means to be “little Christs” for our neighbors in the context of COVID-19.

May God help us to remember our neighbors during these challenging times.

Regards,

Jeff Truscott
Trinity Theological College
Singapore



EDUCATION

Ph.D./M.A. Liturgical Studies:
University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN
S.T.M.
Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Gettysburg, PA
M.Div.
Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital Univ., Columbus, OH

HOBBIES

Music, travel, cooking (Italian desserts) and reading

CALENDAR

Jeffrey’s Birthday	May 19
Jeffrey’s Ordination	Sept. 26, 1988

CONTACT

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Purdue's Herb Ohm Sees Decades of Work Come to Fruition

Story by Brian Wallheimer April 9, 2020

Herb Ohm had no intention of retiring in 2014. He still had work to do and, by his own calculations, he'd be in the field and lab for at least another three years when he would turn 70.

After earning his doctorate under famed Purdue wheat breeder and agronomist Fred Patterson, Ohm joined the Purdue faculty in 1971, eventually becoming the leader of the wheat-breeding program when Patterson retired in 1986. One of Ohm's specialties was crossing wheat with wild and exotic species that contained genes long left behind by those who had cultivated modern wheat varieties. The hope was that those exotic species have natural genetic resistance to pests and diseases.

For nearly two decades, leading up to 2012, Ohm's lab had been making cross after cross of exotic wheat species with commercial varieties until they found one that imparted strong resistance to fusarium head blight. They were actively characterizing those plants and beginning to identify the gene or genes responsible.

Maybe Ohm would have gotten much of this done in the three remaining years he planned to work, or maybe he would have followed in Patterson's footsteps again and retire but continue coming in for many years after.

That decision was taken out of Ohm's hands when, in April 2012, he suffered a severe stroke. Despite efforts to return to his work, he was forced to retire a year later.

"That was very frustrating to me. This severe stroke came and totally turned my life upside down," Ohm said. "Because of this, I had to retire and eventually or gradually lost contact with my collaborators and other faculty in my department at Purdue."

It was the end of Ohm's involvement in wheat genetics, but it wasn't the end of his work.

From 2000 to 2008, Lingrang Kong had worked with Ohm as a postdoctoral researcher and a research geneticist in the Department of Agronomy. After becoming a professor in wheat breeding and genetics at Shandong Agricultural University in China, Kong took up his mentor's work and led the effort to identify the gene responsible for fusarium head blight resistance.

This week, seven years after Ohm had to step away from his research program, Kong's team published its findings in the journal *Science*. In the list of authors, right before Kong's name, is Herbert Ohm.

Kong also sent *Science* a piece that reflected on Ohm's influence. "As my supervisor, Dr. Ohm was humble and sincere with others. I learned a lot from Dr. Ohm on both a personal and professional level," Kong said. "His actions have had a profound influence on me. Dr. Ohm's encouragement enabled me to continue this project," Kong added. "It would have been hard to publish this article in the journal *Science* without Dr. Ohm's continuous support."

In the paper, the authors report that they've identified and isolated the gene *Fhb7* from *Thinopyrum elongatum*, a wheatgrass native to Africa and Eurasia. It shows a similar effect on resistance as *Fhb1*, one of the few known genes that imparts any resistance to fusarium head blight.

The team was able to clone *Fhb7*, and characterize and describe the mechanisms the gene uses to impart resistance. But one of the most significant findings is that inserting *Fhb7* into a wheat line makes no other agronomic changes to the plant and causes no yield penalty. Breeders who incorporate *Fhb7* won't be trading yield for disease resistance.

"This paper demonstrates his scientific acumen, his forward thinking in terms of bringing in resistance genes from a wide variety of related species."

"Before, the genes weren't isolated sufficiently. The nice thing here is that we've identified a single gene, and that can be transferred in with the proper genetic markers," Ohm said. "I think farmers can get the same performance in terms of yield and other traits from wheat that has good resistance to fusarium now."

The *Fhb1* gene imparts only a partial resistance to fusarium head blight, said Joe Anderson, an Ohm colleague and professor of agronomy at Purdue. Adding *Fhb7* significantly increases resistance and will save farmers from significant losses.

“This gene is one of the few strong enough to add a significant additional level of resistance when combined with Fhb1,” Anderson said. “This is an important tool wheat breeders now have in their toolboxes.”

The authors also note that the gene is otherwise unknown in the plant kingdom but is 97 percent similar to a genetic sequence with a fungus called *Epichloë aotearoa*, which infects some grass plants. That suggests wheat obtained Fhb7 through horizontal gene transfer — the passing of genetic material between two organisms without reproduction — which occurs rarely. It makes finding it all the more significant.

“This is not as simple as finding an important wheat gene in exotic germplasm,” said Mitch Tuinstra, Ohm’s former colleague and a Purdue professor of plant breeding and genetics, Wickersham Chair of Excellence in Agricultural Research and scientific director of the Institute of Plant Sciences. “The fact that it’s not even a wheat gene but begins in an exotic endophyte is fascinating. This research is the product of decades of wheat breeding and efforts to incorporate exotic wheat germplasm into modern wheat.”

Tuinstra could well have said generations of work. Kong’s decade-plus of work followed Ohm’s 40-year career. Ohm took the reins from Patterson, who spent 36 years as a preeminent wheat breeder at Purdue, credited with developing more than 50 varieties of wheat, oat and barley, and increasing farm income more than \$3 billion. Purdue named an endowed chair position for Patterson in 2004.

Ohm followed Patterson with similar zeal and intensity. The same year the university recognized Patterson with an endowed chair, Ohm was named a distinguished professor. He developed 37 wheat cultivars, including varieties resistant to yellow dwarf disease and fusarium, and 10 types of spring oats.

Anderson credits Ohm’s approach with students and postdoctoral researchers for allowing Kong to see the project through. Ohm wanted students well-versed in genetic approaches to breeding, but he also wanted them out in the field doing the hands-on work of traditional plant breeding. He also believed in taking the long approach to breeding, spending years to use exotic species and making sometimes dozens of crosses to distill the offspring into varieties that would have a desired trait.

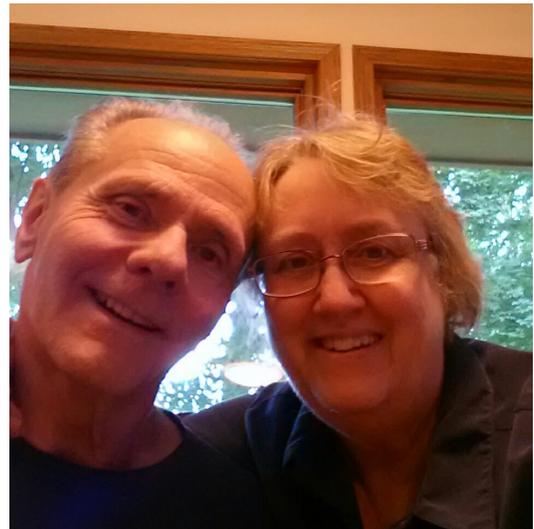
“This paper demonstrates his scientific acumen, his forward thinking in terms of bringing in resistance genes from a wide variety of related species. It takes years and years to go through that process, and he was willing to spend a significant portion of his program doing that,” Anderson said. “And to have that gene identified that can be transferred into new cultivars and varieties that farmers can use around the world will bring joy to Herb. That’s what he was all about. He was trying to develop materials that would benefit the farmer.”

It’s a legacy his former colleagues are happy to see in the pages of one of the world’s premiere academic journals.

“Herb hasn’t touched this material in 10 years, but he’s on the author list. What that says is how highly regarded he is by his former students and postdocs,” Tuinstra said. “Lingrang Kong didn’t forget where this came from and wanted to make sure Herb’s contributions were included in this paper.”

That’s not lost on Ohm, who has counted Kong as a long-time friend.

“It’s gratifying to see this paper come out,” Ohm said. “Kong is a good researcher. I’m glad that he continued to be involved in and work on fusarium resistance in wheat.”



Long-time OSLC members, Herb and Judy Ohm

*Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.*

Bread for the World Offering of Letters

Dear Friends,

Thank you for writing letters as part of the 2020 Bread for the World Offering of Letters. Your simple act, coupled with the efforts of others in our Indiana congregations, sends a strong message to Congress that we are serious about ending hunger in our time.

These past months have been so difficult for so many people. Quarantine has left us sitting inside, wondering how we can help. **Thank you for deciding to be one of the helpers!**

This letter-writing project is simple:

Bread's "three ways" page – instructions for making your contact really count.

The **"quick tips"** page will help you personalize letters/emails/calls.

Review the sample letter as a guide for your letter, email, and/or call. *(We each have the same TWO Indiana Senators, plus we have ONE Representative. **Please be sure to make contact with all three of them.**)*

But before you start this effort, take the time to just pause for a moment in prayer: for guidance for you, and for your legislators and their wisdom.

If you run into any complications or have difficulty at any point with this project, please do not hesitate to contact me for help. I'll check back in a week or so, or feel free to email me after you have successfully contacted your lawmakers.

Be Well. Be Faithful. Be Heard.

Scott Vana
OSLC Offering of Letters Coordinator
scottv1162@gmail.com



Bread for the World is a Christian advocacy group trying to help end hunger in our time. The Offering of Letters is a non-partisan, collective way we advocate for legislation that helps overcome hunger. Our Saviour Lutheran Church has participated in the Offering of Letters for many years, and last year alone more than 50 letters were written to our elected officials in Washington.

This year, the Offering of Letters focuses on good nutrition for vulnerable mothers and children around the world. It also emphasizes summer-time help for the children who use free or reduced lunches at school.

Those children often don't have access to those meals when school is out. A crisis like the COVID-19 pandemic shows how important good nutrition is. Compromised immune systems are no match for this virus.

It may not seem like much, but your contact can make a big difference. Legislative staff people tell us that if a lawmaker gets 10 letters on a topic, many of them start doing research on the issue. So, our goal is to equip as many people as possible to write letters.

Additional Resources can be found at the Bread for the World website:

<https://www.bread.org/>

<https://www.bread.org/OL>

THREE WAYS TO REACH YOUR LEGISLATORS

LETTERS – Hand-written letters have the greatest impact. But a typed document is the next most impactful format.

EMAIL – Email is another way to reach out to your two Senators and your one Representative. Bread for the World has a website where you can send the same letter to all three lawmakers in one click. You will need your nine-digit Zip code.

PHONE CALLS - Calls can help urge your legislators to end hunger, too. Use the letter provided here for ideas for a brief message. Then call **(800-326-4941)**. Ask for your legislator. Or use one of the in-district phone numbers in this packet to reach the in-district office nearest you. You can leave voice mail if no one answers. **Be sure to leave your street address and name so your legislator counts your call!**

Legislative staff members keep track of the number of calls they receive from constituents on any particular topic. This helps them decide which issues are important enough to support. When you reach a staff person on the call, be polite and share your concerns. It is helpful to let the OL Coordinator know what you learn, if you are willing to share that information. This way, Bread for the World knows which legislators may still need more calls.

Bread for the World Offering of Letters

TIPS FOR AN EFFECTIVE LETTER OR EMAIL

A sample letter is on the next page, but make it personal to you!

Share your experience. What made you write? If you have one, share a story about your personal connection to people suffering right now.

Be clear – “I urge you to cosponsor S. 1918”

Be sure to include your address; consider hand-writing your letter (or at least hand-address the envelope) for more impact

Include one or more of the points below to emphasize other points and to make your letter unique to you.

Talking points to help you personalize your communication:

Private individuals and organizations cannot mobilize the resources the U.S. government can to support those at risk of hunger during this crisis. In fact, federal nutrition programs provide roughly 10 times as much food assistance as private churches and charities.

I wish to thank Congress for its bipartisan passage of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, and your continued efforts to respond to this pandemic.

The importance of good nutrition in maintaining community health cannot be overstated.

Funding and flexibility to administer federal nutrition programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), school meals, and emergency food assistance at the state level is essential.

COVID-19 shows us we are connected. Neglecting those who struggle with hunger threatens everyone.

Online Resources:

<https://www.bread.org/library/fact-sheet-coronavirus-covid-19-and-snap>

<https://www.bread.org/library/fact-sheet-why-we-need-200-million-global-nutrition-programs>

Sample Letter

Select Senator or Representative. Fill in the name of your legislator. Add your name and street address (not PO Box). Personalize the letter (see “Quick Tips”). **Hand-written letters get the most attention.**

[Date]

Sen/Rep. _____

Address

City, State, Zip



Names and contact info for Indiana legislators:

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/IN>

Dear Senator/Representative _____,

As we all work together to respond to the Covid-19 global pandemic, it is more important than ever that we make strong investments in nutrition programs for the most vulnerable in the U.S. and abroad. Malnutrition makes children, the elderly and others more susceptible to disease and infection. We have seen how immune system vulnerability impacts not just those groups, but the entire world.

Federal Nutrition programs help U.S. families lead productive lives. Congress should expand the summer EBT program so more children can access nutritious food during the summer when school meals are not available, especially in rural Indiana communities. Specifically, I urge you to cosponsor S1918 “the Hunger Free Summer for Kids Act” which would expand this program nationwide.

I also urge you to support legislation that strengthens U.S. leadership on global nutrition and increases funding for global nutrition programs. Too many children globally are malnourished and suffer from stunting, which negatively impacts national security and limits economic growth.

Now more than ever, my faith calls me to stand alongside vulnerable people here and around the world. Our government should provide leadership toward a well-nourished and more resilient world. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Address]

[City, State ZIP+4]

PAH and Food Finders Updates



The need is increasing
and we need your help.

"We used to serve 35 families a week. Now we serve 300-400. Without the help of organizations like Pack Away Hunger we couldn't meet the community need like we are." *Fay Biccard Glick Neighborhood Center, Indianapolis.*

School systems. Community centers. Churches. Food pantries. Thanks to generous donors and previous packing event hosts, we've delivered more than 185,000 meals to organizations like these in the past several weeks. These partners are telling us the number of families seeking food continues to increase dramatically.

May 5th #GivingTuesdayNow Staff Pack-a-thon

Without packing events to create meals, our meal inventory is quickly depleting. Next Tuesday, please support our [#GivingTuesdayNow Staff Pack-a-thon](#) so that we can continue providing meals to local families who desperately need them. PAH staff will pack meals for 6 hours with live Facebook updates.

Our mailing address is:
Pack Away Hunger
5230 Park Emerson Dr Ste A
Indianapolis, IN 46203-6933

We are here to support people during this uncertain time. With your help, Food Finders can continue to meet the needs of people facing hunger in our community. Your donations help fund emergency food boxes, fresh produce, and other desperately needed meals. If you've given recently, thank you. Your donation is already changing lives.

The people we see include the unemployed or underemployed, kids who are no longer getting meals at school, and many elderly residents. **A survey conducted last week reports that 27 percent of the people we are serving have never asked for food assistance before.**

There's no doubt about it, these are hard times. People in need, some for the first time, are turning to Food Finders and our agency partners for help. You have been here, every step of the way, supporting our community. We are so thankful and look for your continued support to make it through this crisis together.

To continue to help our most vulnerable neighbors, May 5 has been named **#GivingTuesdayNow**, a global day of unity. You can join in supporting Food Finders Food Bank on Tuesday, May 5.

You can provide food and security to so many struggling families. Please give as generously as you can now or on May 5. Together, we are providing nourishing food to individuals, families, children, seniors and veterans.

Food Finders Food Bank, Inc. | 1204 Greenbush Street, Lafayette, IN 47904



**Food Finders
Food Bank, Inc.**
fighting hunger, giving hope

**FEEDING
AMERICA**
A member of

LUM. LTHS (Lafayette Homeless Services), and LWR Updates



Lafayette Urban Ministry

Touching the future by helping children & families today



LUM Protein
Food Pantry

The LUM Protein Food Pantry is a downtown pop-up food pantry featuring **proteins, produce & paper products** for local families-in-need. More details are as follows:

Days/Hours - Thursday mornings from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Location - LUM Ray Ewry Center, 525 N 4th Street, downtown Lafayette, IN

Open to Adult (at least 18 years of age) residents of Tippecanoe County

Pantry Items (always depends on availability):

Canned meats (beef, chicken), canned fish (tuna)

Beans, legumes, lentils – dry or canned

Eggs; Peanut butter

Fresh Produce: Fruits & Vegetables

Paper Products: Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Napkins, Facial Tissues

Baby Formula, Baby Food, Diapers, Baby Wipes

Feminine Hygiene Products: liners, napkins, pads, tampons, wipes

Donations may be dropped off at the Protein Food Pantry (525 N 4th Street, Lafayette) on Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Other arrangements for drop off or pick up of donations may be made by emailing foodpantry@lumserve.org.



If you're looking for ways to help the homeless, partner with LTHC Homeless Services! We'll help you stay informed about homelessness, as well as volunteer and donation opportunities. (<https://lthc.net/>)

For any questions you have about donating, volunteering, or serving our guests—call us at (765) 423-4880 or visit the Signup Genius to see a list of needs:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508094aaead23a1fd0-covid19>

Our prayers continue for you and everyone impacted by COVID-19 here at home and around the world. I'm hoping this news will lift your spirits and give you something to look forward to ...

Next Tuesday, May 5, is #GivingTuesdayNow, an extraordinary day of global unity when people around the world will unleash an extraordinary wave of love and lifesaving generosity.

In the places where we work, social distancing and quarantining drive families further into poverty and hunger – but on #GivingTuesdayNow you can be a shield that protects families. Your \$25 gift on that day will send a family a COVID-19 Defense Kit containing masks, soap and other critical hygiene items to keep families healthy

And in honor of this special day of giving, a generous donor wants to match your gifts 4X – so that your love can reach even more neighbors in need!

We hope you will unite with us for #GivingTuesdayNow to amplify your love to reach even more of your neighbors in need. Together, we will be a shield that protects the world's most vulnerable families in fragile places where health care systems aren't prepared for COVID-19.

In Christ,

Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhard
President and CEO



Lutheran World Relief

News items for the June *Evangel* are due to Sandra Vana (sandra@osluth.org) by 5/27/2020. Please type "Evangel" in the subject line.

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Sherri Guido
Allen Hammer
Kathy Heise
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Evangelism: Scott Vana
Family Promise: Julie Huetteman
Fellowship Events: Sara Behnke
Finance: Steve Belter & Carl Behnke
Foundation: Vince Guido
LUM Liaison: Allen Grady
Mutual Ministry: Brian Wagner
Operations: Dick Rahdert
PLM Liaison: Mike Myers
Property: Matt Ohland
Social Justice: Seeking new contact
Worship & Music: Mark Hermodson



The Evangel

Our Saviour Lutheran Church
300 West Fowler Avenue
West Lafayette, IN 47906