



UNILU NEWS & EVENTS

April 1, 2020



FROM PASTOR JON

This coming Sunday, Palm Sunday, we will be offering holy communion as part of the liturgy. After good conversation among our Worship and Music Ministry Team, and then by Council, Pastor Josh and I are both grateful for their support of our recommended addition to our worship.

I'll speak just for me. For the last twenty plus years Renee & I have looked forward to participating in communion on a weekly basis. My guess is that in that time period we've never gone longer than two weeks without receiving. It's deeply meaningful to me, both as a presider but even more so as a recipient.

Back in 1999, as part of the Pastor Candidacy process, in my final Approval Interview a question was asked about weekly communion. My response for being in favor of the practice included me saying something to the effect of, "Even if my sermon didn't go over well, I know people will be touched by God's grace through the sacrament." On my approval panel was a seasoned pastor with a sharp wit. He retorted, "So you're saying that Holy Communion is a good backup for a lousy sermon?" To which I replied, "Well I wouldn't exactly use those words, but yes." As promised by God and yet still mysterious to me, God's grace comes to us through the bread and wine attached to God's

word and promise.

So, back to offering to celebrate Holy Communion when we are not all physically gathered in the same place. I do this acknowledging the extraordinary circumstances that we are in. Physically separating to help protect our neighbors is the loving thing to do, and we may be asked to continue to do this for months to come. Yet, even though we do not occupy the same physical worship space I do feel gathered with you on Sunday morning, much as we express that as we gather around the communion rail we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. Saints like my father and mother in law who have gone before us, and those who will follow after us till Christ comes.

Some of you may be excited to receive communion this Sunday, others may feel some hesitation. Perhaps, still others will choose to receive only once we are back together in the sanctuary. All three are ok by me. However, as part of the liturgy this Sunday and in the unknown number of Sundays to come, we will be offering Holy Communion. We would ask you to use the best and most representative elements that you are able from your home setting. Bread and wine would be at the top of the list, but grape juice and crackers are fine too. Do not make an unnecessary trip to the store. Know that our church teaches, and we believe, that Christ is fully present even when we receive only one element. Know that God honors a humble and contrite spirit. Know that God loves you, and we your pastors love you too. Do your best with what you have.

Unbeknownst to me was that my mother has been celebrating communion at home the last three years. Until we started using Facebook Live she would watch a Presbyterian worship on TV. She would prepare by gathering her small portion of wine and a cracker. After the presiding minister would offer the Words of Institution and pray the Lord's Prayer, she would receive. It brought tears to my eyes knowing how meaningful and powerful the sacrament is to her that she would do this.

Please contact me at pastorjon12@gmail.com or 843-304-5664 if you have any questions or concerns and would like to talk them through. We want this to be a meaningful addition to our worship service so please don't hold back.

God's peace & hope,

Pastor Jon

Parish Updates

COUNCIL NOTES

Council held a special Zoom video meeting on 3/31/2020 to discuss continuation of church functions during the COVID-19 closure. These are the highlights:

Length of Closure: When CDC/NIH give a declaration that people can gather in groups of more than 100 then we will open again. Until that time, we will continue to hold worship services online.

Communion: Communion at home will now be incorporated into the online service starting this week for anyone who wants to participate. For anyone who would rather wait until we are physically gathered together again, please use this as a time for quiet meditation and reflection.

Online Worship Services: The pastors and many others are working hard to continue to enhance our online worship services. We are thankful for all they have done so quickly to give us these wonderful services! It is warming and comforting to hear the Word and to see both our pastors.

Community Care Calling: Rebecca Quesada has organized a call list to ensure that all members of our church family are in contact with someone each week. These calls serve as a wellness check and to continue the bonds between members of our church family. We can't let our physical separation separate us spiritually!

Offerings: Our church ministries have not ceased during our physical closure. Please, if you are able to continue your offerings during this time, they are greatly appreciated. If you are struggling, please let us know so we can help.

Viewing the Online Worship Services: Worship services can be joined live on Facebook Live at 9:00 am on Sundays and can be viewed on the University Lutheran Church Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/uniluclemson/> and the church website www.uniluclemson.org under the Sermons tab soon after.



WHAT DO I DO IF I FEEL SICK? IS IT THE CORONAVIRUS?

The Coronavirus is now very active within our community and we can expect that many more people will be infected and may not be aware they are infectious. As a reminder, symptoms include fever, shortness of breath and tightness or fullness in the chest. If you have those symptoms, pick up the phone and call your primary care provider prior to coming into the health care systems. If you are not able to reach your provider, Prisma Health and AnMed Health now offer Virtual Visits. Links are below:

- Prisma Health virtual visit. Use the payment code COVID19 for the free visit. <https://www.prismahealth.org/coronavirus/>
- AnMed Health use <http://anmedhealth.org/Services/Additional-Services/E-Visits> and select “COVID-19 Symptoms.”

When you speak with a healthcare provider try to have the following information available:

- Do you have a fever of 100.4 degrees or over?
- Do you have a cough?
- Are you having difficulty breathing?
- Are you having chest pain?
- Do you have any preexisting conditions?
- The provider will determine if you should be tested for the virus.

If you have a medical emergency, call 911.

A Note of Caution: Many people who have contracted the Coronavirus will have mild symptoms such as a cough, headache, low grade fever that require limited treatment. However, *everyone* should pay attention to *any new*

symptoms that may pop up, especially after they start to feel better. Often, people start off with minor physical complaints — slight cough, headache, low-grade fever — that gradually worsen. In the event your symptoms do start to get worse or reappear after you've been feeling better, do contact your doctor again. You may need to be reevaluated and treated in person by a healthcare professional. Early intervention with worsening symptoms may help prevent serious complications.

In closing, I'd like to offer a prayer for the many healthcare providers who are working tirelessly to care for us. *Heavenly Father, watch over those caring for the victims of the Coronavirus. We offer prayers for their protection as they help the afflicted find healing and comfort during their suffering. Amen.*

God's Peace, Lena Jones, RN BSN MS



A LETTER FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

To give electronically, look for this icon on the lower right of the University Lutheran webpage at <http://uniluclemson.org/>. Click on “Give an Offering.” Or [CLICK HERE](#) to go directly to the giving page.

Dear Congregation,

We know all members of the congregation are under some form of distress given the coronavirus pandemic. We all miss seeing each other in Church. The ministries of the church do go on, and you should all know that you can reach out to the church for assistance. Many of us stand ready to fetch medications and groceries and provide other help.

Our other regular ministries go on as well. So, if you are able to continue contributing financially to our Church, please do so. We appreciate that some of you cannot. Electronic giving is available from the Church website or you can go directly to the giving page by [CLICKING HERE](#). Of course, you can also mail your contributions directly to the church. The

mail is being collected – in a proper socially distant manner.

Everyone in the Church is receiving prayers. Please keep our Church in your prayers, too.

**THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND AS WE NAVIGATE
COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY TOGETHER
(Subject to Change as Circumstances Change)**

- **All worship services and church meetings will be conducted online until CDC/NIH give a declaration that people can gather in groups of more than 100.** Sunday school and Bible studies will not meet. Sunday service livestreamed at 9 AM on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/uniluclemson/> and later posted to our website www.uniluclemson.org.
 - Council has requested that the pastors not have in-person pastoral visits, except in the case of life-threatening emergency.
 - Pastors will use telecare or other methods for the duration of this public health emergency.
 - Pastors can be reached via cell phone 24/7. Please **DO NOT CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE.** Pastor Jon: 843-304-5664; Pastor Josh: 919-744-1590.
 - Church administrative assistant, Abi Donhauser will work remotely from her home office. She can be reached during normal office hours Monday - Thursday, 7 am to 12 noon & 1 pm to 2:30 pm; Friday 8 am to 12 noon at 864-722-5504 or by email; unilusecretary@gmail.com.
 - LCM meals will be provided as boxed/to-go meals rather than usual group meals. A small number of people will help with meal preparation.
 - This public health emergency may leave people feeling isolated. To combat this, Council and others in the congregation, who desire to do so, (volunteers are welcome!) will be asked to contact others regularly to check in (lists will be provided).
 - Church facilities remain available to congregation members, but we suggest that this be for **INDIVIDUALS ONLY AND NOT FOR GATHERINGS/MEETINGS.**
 - Clemson Community Care will continue their regular schedule of operations. Donations can be made at the church (baskets in narthex) or can be brought directly to their facility. Online monetary donations are also greatly appreciated
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Community Ministry



MASKS FOR ANMED - NEW SEWING PROJECT!

Anmed is requesting sewn cloth masks. See their website at <http://anmedhealth.org/Coronavirus>. Scroll down to “Donations” for explanation about these masks. They have included a link to specific sewing pattern and directions. The filter they mention will be cut from surgical drape material. These drapes are fluid resistant which decreases droplet transmission. I spoke with the coordinator this morning. At this time, they have not run out of masks. However, they are fearful that they will and believe that these masks, utilizing this specified pattern, are the best alternative to no mask.

If you are interested in making masks and need supplies or have further questions, feel free to contact me jbaikens57@gmail.com. I have tons of scraps from the hats washed and big enough to make the masks.

I am also researching the masks created out of Florida University from the material in which surgical supplies are packed. Go to this link to read more about them:

<https://www.gainesville.com/news/20200326/more-coronavirus-diy-uf-upcycles-for-masks>

Blessings,
Judy Aikens

OPERATION INASMUCH ALTERNATIVE

***When: Now Thru End of Social Distancing
Serve Eagerly!***

Jesus said in essence, *Inasmuch as you serve the least of these, you serve me.*

PHYSICAL DISTANCING HAS BEEN EXTENDED THUR APRIL. Here is an

updated list of **THINGS WE CAN CONTINUE TO DO** to serve our neighbors.

1) **Keep sending cards! This is of the utmost importance at this time when we are asked to avoid face to face contact. See the list of names of our “LCM Friends”, “shut-ins,” those who are ill, and healthcare workers/first responders by clicking [HERE](#). Send them a word of encouragement and love. If you are creative, or are looking for a project with your children, make a card! You might consider sending one card a day. Addresses can be found in the Church Directory. If you need assistance using the Directory, contact me or one of the pastors. If we have left anyone off this list, please let us know and we will send out an updated list.**

2) **We have many members who work in health care or are first responders. Pray for them during this time. The names of those we know can be found below. In addition to these, any other folks working in the community (grocery stores, postal workers etc) where they are exposed to more people need our prayers. Those being laid off need our prayers. Those with COVID-19 need our prayers. If you have names to be added to the list, let the church know!**

3) **Hospitals are experiencing a blood shortage right now. We regularly have blood drives at UNILU, thanks to the organization skills of Carol Miller. Although we cannot host one here at this time, if you are healthy and qualify, you can still donate!!!**

4) **The church is organizing a group to make sure each of us in our church family is contacted each week. You too can reach out to others, your neighbors, family or friends. Facetime or Skype with them!**

5) **View Pastor Jon’s messages each day on Facebook. Participate in online worship. <https://www.facebook.com/uniluclemson/>**

6) **When grocery shopping (if you still go out), pick up items for a neighbor and leave them on their doorstep. If you cannot or should not go out, ASK someone to shop for you! Those who can are willing to help! Alternately, make an online donation to Clemson Community Care, Our Daily Bread or**

other charity.

- 7) Take pictures and share them with us through email or Facebook.
- 8) The kids' scrub hats are done! Thanks to everyone who helped or offered to help!!!! If you have fabric or wish to order fabric online you can continue to make hats. They are always needed.
- 9) Share any ideas you have to stay busy and feel productive during this time!

Blessings to all during this unique time.

Any questions, contact Judy Aikens, 724-831-8104, jbaikens57@gmail.com

UniLu Concerns & Celebrations

UNILU PRAYER CONCERNS

PRAYER CONCERNS for University Lutheran Members, Family and Friends:
Ada Lou Steirer; Herm Spitzer; Gail Paul; Pat Wagner; Rosalyn Flanigan;
George Harris; Tony Quesada; Gene Copenhaver; Randy Gilchrist; Larry
Bock; Joyce Lillehamer; Judy Morrison's nephew, Christopher Stott;
expecting parents, Donny & Cathy Harris.

UNILU CELEBRATIONS

Celebrating Birthdays this Coming Week: Simon Barrow; Brian Bennett;
Jerad Green; Lynn Kunkle; Lillian Neary; Charlie Smith; Rachel Smith.
Celebrating Wedding Anniversaries this Week: Reed & Sandra Severance.

Parish Information

Click [HERE](#) for UniLu Calendar

Click [HERE](#) for Prayer Fellowship List

LINKS

[SC LUTHERAN MAGAZINE](#)

[UNILU WEBSITE](#) • [LECTIONARY/READINGS](#)

*** Miss a service?** The recorded church sermons, audio and video, are posted weekly to the website: www.uniluclemson.org and to the University Lutheran Facebook page.

*** Church Office Hours ***

Monday–Thursday 7 AM–12 PM; 1 PM–2:30 PM

Fridays 8 AM - 12 PM

University Lutheran Church Mission Statement

University Lutheran is a family of faith, called by the Holy Spirit to be one ministry serving both our community and university. The Spirit calls us to make known, by word and deed, the story of God's love in Jesus. Our worship together empowers us to grow as disciples as we receive, celebrate, and share God's gifts with all of God's creation and created ones.