



UNILU NEWS & EVENTS 20 MAY 2020



FROM PASTOR JON

Governance is not a sexy topic of discussion, but it is critical for our life together - - as a congregation, a

community and a country. I share this because of what our Congregation Council has been deliberating these last two months, and news I just noticed from our national church body.

First, to our congregation leadership and governance. Our Council met Monday night and after catching up on the regular business of the congregation we participated in a lengthy Zoom conversation on our worship life. (Please read the Council Report in this Enews or refer back to yesterday's email.)

Pastor Josh & I appreciate everyone's willingness to participate in online worship, even as we know most people's preference would be to gather safely in person. For some people that preferred timing may be sooner rather than later, while for others it will be later rather than sooner. At some point we will all be faced with when we are comfortable returning for worship.

So, let me get personal for a moment. I love to sing, but the science currently points to that not being a safe activity while we do not have a vaccine. Although I'm an introvert, I deeply miss greeting you and having that few

minutes before/after worship to catch up. But as I begin interacting with others I realize how many contacts I am now exposing others to. Questions cross my mind and heart, including “What is my responsibility for others’ safety knowing that some people have a lifetime of training that ‘Whenever the church doors are open, I’ll be there!’” What is our responsibility to our siblings in Christ? How do we love our neighbor in times such as these?

This is why I love community; because I am not able, nor am I solely responsible for these decisions. We are. Our Council leaders that we elected long before a pandemic was on the horizon are helping lead us. People with great experience in healthcare and medical professions are offering guidance within and beyond the congregation. I encourage you to contact me, Pastor Josh, or anyone on Council to share your hopes and dreams, your disappointments and sadness as we collectively seek the wisest course forward.

Now on to the national church. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is working on a DRAFT entitled “Social Message on Government and Civic Engagement: Discipleship in a Democracy.” Links to read it and comment on it by May 27th can be found at the following:

<https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Messages/Government>

My apologies for not bringing this to your attention earlier; it just registered on my mental radar yesterday.

God's peace & hope,

Pastor Jon

PARISH NEWS & UPDATES



UNILU COUNCIL REPORT FROM MAY 18TH MEETING

The council met on May 18th to discuss when and how to reopen for in-person worship. We are all eager to be back together in person for worship and fellowship with our church family.

But in consideration of the health and welfare of all of our members, council

unanimously made the decision that **University Lutheran Church will remain closed up to and including June 28th**. We will meet again before that date to discuss whether or not to extend our closure.

We used two guiding principles in making this decision. We considered both of these carefully during lengthy discussion in making our decision to not begin in-person worship services at this time.

(1) Have the conditions set forth by the CDC and federal government been met for allowing groups of 50 or more to meet in person (Federal Guideline Phase 3)?

Despite businesses beginning to reopen, the conditions have not yet been met for larger group gatherings. We examined the latest NIH data for South Carolina, which shows that although new coronavirus cases are not currently rising, they are not declining either. This is a key factor in the government guidelines for allowing larger group gatherings.

(2) Can we provide a more meaningful worship service in person than we can online?

The South Carolina Synod and the national Evangelical Lutheran Church in America have both provided guidance regarding return to in-person worship. To return for worship right now would require extensive changes in our service and fellowship:

- Face masks would be mandatory and must be worn throughout the service
- No singing or prayers spoken in unison
- No passing the offering plate
- The baptismal font would be empty
- Sharing of the peace would be a wave from a distance
- No physical bulletins or hymnals

ELCA guidance states sharing in Holy Communion is not advised until well into Phase 3 allowing gatherings of 50 or more people. At a minimum, the following changes would be made:

- **No common cup**
- **People would not stand or kneel at the altar rail but would instead wait in line, maintaining proper physical distancing**
- **Pastors and assisting ministers would have to wear masks during distribution**
- **People could only lower their masks as they consume the elements, and this would have to be done only after moving away from the distribution area.**

We would have to maintain physical distancing when we are in the building:

- **The number of people who could attend a service would be limited**
- **People would be spaced far apart (skip rows, multiple seats between individuals or family groups)**
- **No use of the bathrooms (insufficient physical distance and airflow)**
- **No gathering in the narthex for fellowship before or after worship**
- **No greeting line**
- **No Sunday school**
- **Extensive cleaning between services especially high contact areas**

For many, these extensive changes would detract from the worship service. Our current online worship offers a number of the elements we consider integral to the worship experience. Until we can safely gather together in person for worship, council hopes that you will continue with the online worship services and devotions and will take advantage of the fellowship opportunities outlined in the newsletter.



SHOULD I WEAR A FACE MASK IN PUBLIC?

YES! It's all about protecting others and slowing the spread of the Coronavirus. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is encouraging all Americans — even people who feel healthy — to wear cloth face masks or homemade face coverings in public when 6-foot social distancing is difficult to maintain. The new guidance is a reversal from previous CDC recommendations that face masks need to be

worn only by people who are sick with COVID-19 or by those caring for someone who is sick.

The cloth non-medical masks will not do much to protect you from inhaling particles that carry the virus. But they ***do protect wearers from possibly spreading the virus to others***. To help prevent the spread of the virus to our community's army of essential workers, please consider wearing masks in public settings when you are indoors in retail stores, pharmacies, mass transit and ride-shares. When going out on an errand, wear a face covering and get your business done as fast as you can. As businesses reopen and employees return to work, masks can play a pivotal role in helping block the spread of the virus, especially from asymptomatic carriers. For more information click on the following link:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/DIY-cloth-face-covering-instructions.pdf>

When wearing a mask:

- Make sure you can breathe through it
- Make sure it covers your nose and mouth
- Wash your hands before taking it on or off
- Wash after using

You should not:

- Use on children under age 2
- Touch the front of the mask
- Use surgical masks needed by healthcare workers

God's Peace,

Lena Jones, RN, BSN, MS

COMMUNITY TESTING FOR THE CORONAVIRUS IN THE UPSTATE

African Americans are disproportionately affected by the Coronavirus pandemic. While African Americans represent 27% of population in South Carolina, they comprise 44% of all diagnosed cases and 53% of deaths from the virus.

Prisma Health is now offering one day testing clinics for COVID-19 testing at community locations across South Carolina in an effort to address the disparities in healthcare in people of color or low-income populations. The community testing, done in partnership with the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), reaches populations who may not otherwise have access to traditional testing or online virtual visits. At the sites, people will be screened and *those with symptoms* will be tested without a doctor's order.

- Testing will be provided regardless of an individual's ability to pay.
- No appointment is needed. Community members taking part will be given masks upon arrival and will be asked to maintain social distancing.
- Test results are expected within four days.
- Individuals will receive follow-up communication about the test results – whether positive or negative – from providers with Prisma Health.
- Those attending the testing events also will receive information about isolating at home if sick, tips on caring for themselves and when to seek additional care should their symptoms worsen.
- All events will run from 10 a.m.–3 p.m. regardless of locations or dates.

For more information see Prisma at

<https://www.prismahealth.org/coronavirus/community-testing/>

Testing is also available in Oconee, Pickens and Anderson counties.

Information on scheduling a test via a free virtual visit can be found on the Prisma Health or AnMed websites. The Rosa Clark clinic in Seneca also offers testing to those eligible.

God's Peace, Lena Jones

**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 service livestreamed at 9 AM on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/uniluclemson/> later posted to our website www.uniluclemson.org and YouTube

- 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**. Please thoroughly sanitize after use.
- 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



FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

To give electronically, look for this icon on the lower right of the University Lutheran webpage at <http://uniluclcmson.org/>. Click on “Give an Offering.”

Or [CLICK HERE](#) to go directly to the giving page.

COMMUNITY MINISTRY

JOIN THE 75,000 - **NOW 150,000!** FACE
MASK CHALLENGE!



A huge Thank You to all the mask makers!!!

Our masks are traveling nationwide!!

If you are personally in need of a mask, please contact me!!!! We have plenty to share!!

Lutheran World Relief's mask challenge has increased to 150,000 masks. 84,200 are pledged as of May 19, 2020. See their website: lwr.org/masks to make your pledge and get instructions on how to make their masks. Ellen Reneke has offered to mail all masks we make for LWR when we are done. Ellen now has a drop off box inside the narthex door as you come in from the upstairs parking lot. Please package in bags of 25 masks. Any additional ones, place in box loose.

Any questions, contact Judy Aikens at [724-831-8104](tel:724-831-8104); jbaikens57@gmail.com.

OPERATION INASMUCH

ALTERNATIVE

When: Now Thru End of Physical Distancing

Serve Eagerly!

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

UNILU's doors will remain shut through June. However, our hearts remain open to continue to love our neighbors by:

1) Be sure to take care of yourself: get outside and enjoy the beautiful weather, take advantage of the fresh produce - strawberries can be picked locally, start your day with other Unilu members at "Jammies with Jesus" each morning, Monday - Saturday at 7:30 am on facebook (link below). We are no good to others if we are depleted.

<https://www.facebook.com/uniluclemson/>

2) Donate locally: give to Clemson Community Care or other charities in Clemson and Seneca.

3) Keep sending cards! See the list of names of our “LCM Friends,” “shut-ins,” those who are ill, first responders/health care workers by clicking [HERE](#). If we have left anyone off this list, please let us know and we will send out an updated list. We know these are appreciated! Send cards to those impacted by the tornado too!

4) We have many members who work in health care or are first responders. Pray for them during this time. 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!

5) Hospitals are experiencing a blood shortage right now. If you are healthy and qualify, please donate!!!

6) Sign up to cook a meal for Family Promise in June. [See Family Promise article below](#). A huge "Thank You!" to those who have already signed up. We are almost filled!

7) Continue with all the things you have been doing – attend church online, shop for someone who is high risk, make a phone call, be creative!

Blessings to all during this unique time. Any questions, contact Judy Aikens, 724-831-8104, jbaikens57@gmail.com



FAMILY PROMISE JUNE MEAL PREPARATION

2020 has been a bit unique for Family Promise. We, with Holy Trinity Episcopal (HTE) were scheduled to host a week in February and a week in March. These had to be canceled due to construction at HTE.

Subsequently, we have been forced to close our doors as a result of COVID-19. Family Promise is still working to ensure our guests are properly

housed. Family Promise of Pickens is currently housing a maximum of two families at the house owned by Easley Presbyterian Church indefinitely. No "Hosts" are staying. As of today, there is one family, a mother and son (who just turned 18), in the Pickens Family Promise Program. The task asked of churches during this period is simply to provide meals for families, drop them off, but no visiting allowed.

We are taking three weeks in June to do meals (first was scheduled, the second two are to make up for the two weeks we had to cancel).

What we need from our two churches are folks to prepare meals for the following dates: May 31 thru June 6; June 14 thru June 27

Please sign up at [Family Promise June Meal Signup](#) or email me if you are willing to prepare a meal, dates you are available and if you are willing to drive the meal to Easley. If not, there are folks both at UNILU and HTE that are willing to deliver the meals. Also, let me know if you don't wish to cook but would be willing to deliver a meal.

UniLu's goal is to prepare at least 12 of the meals. Thus far, we have 9 meals covered.

A huge Thank You to all who volunteer!

Judy Aikens; jbaikens57@gmail.com

UNILU CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

UNILU PRAYER CONCERNS

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

UNILU CELEBRATIONS

Celebrating Birthdays this Week: Brenda Monn; Peter Caterino; Blake Simpson; Amy Cox; Kent Jones

Celebrating Wedding Anniversaries this Week: Donald & Catherine Harris

PARISH INFORMATION

Click [HERE](#) for UniLu Calendar

Click [HERE](#) for Prayer Fellowship List

LINKS

[SC LUTHERAN MAGAZINE](#)

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

[LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY](#) • [SC SYNOD](#)

[ELCA GOOD GIFTS](#)

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: <https://www.facebook.com/uniluclemson/>

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.