



Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

of Stanwood, Washington

27201 – 99th Avenue N.W / P. O. Box 370
Stanwood, WA 98292
360-629-3767 / www.oursaviourschurch.org

May 19, 2021 – Congregational Letter #24 regarding COVID-19

Dear Friends and Members of Our Saviour's:

“Excitement and Confusion”

“Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, ‘What does this mean?’ Acts 2:12

Amazed and perplexed, that was the response by most of us after hearing the CDC's announcement last Thursday. In, what seemed like a surprise moment for the nation, the CDC suddenly gave the right for those individuals fully vaccinated to move about freely, unmasked, inside and outside social settings. Wow, most of us were wondering how, when and where, did that happen?

One could say that this same kind of reaction took place on the first day of Pentecost as well. Jesus had commanded the disciples to stay in the city of Jerusalem until they received the gift the Father had promised. Suddenly, and without warning, on the day of Pentecost there was a mighty wind, tongues that looked like fire rested upon the believers' heads, and they all began speaking about the glory of God in other languages. The crowd was **“amazed and perplexed”** at this event. Most everyone was wondering how, when and where did this happen? Some people in the crowd made fun of the event, and said that they had drunk too much wine.

The Director of the CDC, Dr. Rochelle Walensky, has tirelessly tried to explain the reasons for the timing of the announcement. She has said that it was not a snap judgment that came out of thin air, but honestly, most of us have been mumbling that there must be some hidden reason. But, she has doubled down and said that the plan has always been to reach the moment when they could set people free to unmask and move about freely.

So also, Peter, on that first day of Pentecost, called out to the crowd and explained that this moment with the Holy Spirit was not willy-nilly. Peter pointed to the fulfillment of God's plan prophesied by the prophet Joel hundreds of years earlier. God's plan has always been to set people free in Christ and live in the “power” of the Holy Spirit. Our Lord wants his people to live unmasked, reflecting the glory of God to an isolated, suspicious and hurting world.

So, while certain confusion still exists about both the CDC and the Holy Spirit – Let us live each day with the anticipation and expectation of the prophet Joel's final words, “And EVERYONE who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.” (Joel 2:32/Acts 2:21)

Church News:

Therefore, due to the recent CDC declaration – Our Saviour’s will not require masks be worn by those fully vaccinated at any church activities. Certainly, you are free to continue to wear a mask if you have been vaccinated and want the extra protection. If you have not been vaccinated, including youth, you are encouraged to continue to wear a mask – or if your immune system has been compromised. You no longer need to sign in entering the church and are asked to “self-monitor” as we move forward.

May 23, 2021 – is **Pentecost Sunday**. You are welcome to **wear something “red”** – representing the “fire” of the Holy Spirit – this has been a tradition over the years in our Lutheran Church. So also, you are invited to stay after the worship service for Coffee Hour outside the fellowship hall. **“Red Velvet” cupcakes**, baked by our infamous Keith Tonne, will be served along with Hope Coffee.

“Thank You” to all who participated in the “Clean Up Project” at the Stanwood Post Office. 18 people participated in the cleanup. Ramona Snowden sparked the idea. After weeding, Ed Snowden, Mike Beauchamp, along with Dave Rodenberger, brought their trucks and trailer filled with mulch and spread it throughout the flower beds. A wonderful improvement!

Graduation Sunday will be celebrated at Our Saviour’s on Sunday, **June 13th**. If you have a high school or college student graduating, please forward their picture and information to Linda at the church office by June 8th. We would like to highlight them on that day and then include the information in the July newsletter.

Please mark **Sunday, June 27th**, on your calendar. The Church Council will be holding a **Congregational Forum** after the church service to discuss, share and have conversation about post-pandemic mission and ministry opportunities for Our Saviour’s.

**The Lord has blessed us and the Holy Spirit is with us!
It is an exciting time in the life of our church family.**

Have a great week. See you Sunday!

Love in Christ, Pastor Mark

Please pray for the following members and friends of Our Saviour's:

Jennifer Flint; Arnold Gull (father of Peggy Land and Kathy Slack); Jim Quait; Todd Larson; Judy and Paul Anderson; Marylee & Leon Sams; Heather (daughter of Carol Johnson); Charles (brother of Donna Cook); Gracie Miller (age 11 receiving chemo); Judy Waltier (friend of Jon and Jane King); Ervin Thompson (uncle of Amy Thompson); Marilyn Nienhuis; Beverley Klatt; Cameron Ruscha (HS student of Erik Ronning); Dan Weber (friend of Amy Thompson); Dale and Barbara Tetlow; Gary Ruef (family member of Lorri & Joe DeFelice); Lois Peterson (cousin of Connie Ronning); Amanda Hobbs; Ingeburg Paul; Mike Erps (nephew of Leilani Erps); Mick Hanson; Robert MacNeal; Leif & Pam Larson (friends of Gards & Marvel Graham); Ramona Brodland (sister of Del Fox); Marlene Schuster; Howard Wangness; Michele Kunzman; Dave Matthewson; Ryker (grandnephew of Judy & Paul Anderson)

Please pray also for the people of India and especially:

Kidstown Orphanage home leaders and children. Most are safe at this point with one leader in the hospital with COVID and pneumonia. Pray that they would have access to their bank accounts.

Praise and Thanksgiving for:

- Connie Ronning's improvement – pray for continued healing*
- Ruth, in India, recovering from COVID (BSF sister of Carol Curtis and Lois Stahley)*
- Shiprah and family in India (BSF sister of Carol Curtis and Lois Stahley) -They are much improved from COVID. Continued prayer for protection of others.*
- Sila and husband, a safe return to Zimbabwe from Mozambique (BSF sister of Carol Curtis and Lois Stahley)*
- Les Stahley, successful procedure and heart now at rest; home recovering.*

Prayers also for:

Our school district: schools, preschools, and daycares; administrators, teachers, support staff, students and parents.

All those suffering from the effects of COVID-19, Fires, Hurricanes, and Flooding.

All those suffering physical, emotional, and spiritual anguish due to ongoing isolation and overall pandemic stress.

For our national and community leaders: President, Congress, WA governor, Stanwood mayor and others in leadership.

Pastor Mark, OSLC Staff and Preschool, Our Saviour's Lutheran Congregation, Homeless, Armed Forces, Josephine and Warm Beach residents, Government and Community Leaders, Safe Harbor

Reminder from our treasurer, Linda Mohler:

2021 Offering Envelopes are available. It is a great help to the treasurer when you use these envelopes for your contributions to OSLC. Call the church office to make arrangements to have them available for you. Thank you!

With many offerings being received by US mail, please note the correct mailing address for Our Saviour's Lutheran Church is P.O. Box 370, Stanwood, WA 98292. Mail addressed to our street address is most times returned to sender as undeliverable. Thank you!

*We have included an updated offering report –

2021 Budget - \$501,377.00

Sunday, May 16, 2021 Offering Report

	Actual Received	Budget Need
Offering	\$ 7,298.40	\$ 9,642.00
Month to Date	\$ 22,239.02	\$ 28,926.00
Year to Date	\$186,167.67	\$192,840.00
Building Fund Balance 5/09/2021	\$ 50,545.96	
Offerings/Pledges	<u>\$ 595.00</u>	
Building Fund Balance 5/16, 2021	\$ 51,140.96	

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5/16/2021 Service Count: (42 inside – 142 outside)