



Summer

OUR SAVIOR
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, June 28, 2020



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
745 Front Street S., Issaquah, WA 98027
425-392-4169

SERVICE OF THE WORD

GATHERING: THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS US TOGETHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

CALL TO WORSHIP *All Are Welcome* — Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Jan Hazelton, Scott Hafso

WELCOME

Pastor Jim Kruse

GREETING

PM: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

PM: Let us pray. O God,

C: you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

WORD: GOD SPEAKS TO US IN SCRIPTURE READING, PREACHING AND SONG.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 28: 5-9

⁵The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the Lord; ⁶and the prophet Jeremiah said, “Amen! May the Lord do so; may the Lord fulfill the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the Lord, and all the exiles. ⁷But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. ⁸The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. ⁹As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the Lord has truly sent the prophet.”

AM: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 10:40-42

Jesus said to the twelve: ⁴⁰“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; ⁴²and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

PM: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

I arrived in St. Louis to begin my theological training late in the summer of 1977. The seminary I attended required everyone to have a minimal working knowledge of the original biblical languages, something I did not have, since I had not been preparing to become a pastor when I was in college. And so, I arrived several weeks before the semester began in order to take a crash course in biblical Hebrew. From 9:00 in the morning until 3:00 in the afternoon, with only an hour break for lunch, I sat at my desk and did my best to learn a language that read from right to left, rather than left to right, and did not use lettering that was identifiable as letters to me. The evenings were spent memorizing vocabulary and the tenses of verbs.

In the same classroom with me were a half-a-dozen other students who were as equally unprepared for theological studies as I was. They came from places all across the country, each one of them presumably there because they wanted to become a Lutheran pastor. Although I soon began to wonder about the motivation of a few of them as I got to know them.

“The Fat Man” was the name that we gave to Rick Davis, not because he was fat (that would not have been very kind of us), but because he drove an old, beat up, mini-pickup truck—the kind that used to be popular in the 70’s and 80’s—that had a storage tank permanently welded into the bed. Rick’s source of income, before and during his theological training, was the recycling of used frying oil that he would pick up at restaurants around town and transport to a recycling center somewhere in the area. Rick was always a little late to class and usually brought the odor of French fries with him.

And then there was “The Cursing Carpenter,” a man named John. John was not actually taking the Hebrew class with the rest of us, but he was there waiting in the lunch room on the first couple of days to introduce himself and strike up a conversation. We were told that he was a second-year student who had a roofing business on the side. And his manner of speaking was peppered with four-lettered words. If John really was a student at the school, we never saw him in classes. We were convinced that he had enrolled just to have access to cheap labor for his business.

Erik Ernhardt, another student in the class who did not have a nickname, appeared to be just like the rest of us, except that he had arrived at the seminary with a full complement of vestments: shirts, collars, robes, stoles, even a couple of chasubles. Erik didn’t study very hard and didn’t try to hide it either. And when the semester started, he hung out with the chapel staff and found a role to play in almost every worship service. I guess it gave him a chance to wear some of his special clothing.

There are all kinds of people who think that they want to stand between God and the People of God and speak on God’s behalf. For reasons known only to themselves and God, they think they have the gifts to pull it off, and the rest of us will just have to listen to what they have to say and figure out what to do with it.

The prophet Jeremiah is one of those people. We probably know more about Jeremiah than any other prophet in the Old Testament. We know that Jeremiah lived in the Southern Kingdom of Judah, after the Northern Kingdom had been overrun and destroyed by the Assyrians. It was a time when Judah itself was being threatened from many sides and was about to be conquered by the Babylonians. Jeremiah was just the latest in a long line of prophets to bring a message of judgement to the people because they had abandoned the worship of the God of

Abraham and Moses.

We know about Jeremiah's personality, we know about his call to ministry, and we know about the context of his work, because he tells us all about it. Like my friends from seminary, Jeremiah was ill-prepared for the work to which he has been called. He is youth, probably a teen-ager. He usually used some sort of absurd visual aid to get his point across, and he is constantly complaining to God about what he is asked to do. It was an approach and a message that the people had been hearing for many years and they were getting tired of it.

In the First Reading for today, the king of Judah is worried about his future and has called for a gathering of prophets in Jerusalem to soothe his anxiety. Hananiah, who is a well-practiced, professional prophet, knows what the king wants to hear and how to say it. And so Hananiah begins by saying something like, "Not to worry, the tide is turning. The sacred vessels of the temple, and the leaders who were captured during Babylon's first raid into Jerusalem, will soon be returned."

Jeremiah, on the other hand, has strapped a heavy wooden oxen yoke around his neck to symbolize the people's allegiance to foreign gods, and says something like, "Fine. I am all for your message of victory and hope. But only when the words of the prophet who proclaims them come true, will it be worth listening to. I will believe it when I see it."

Let's just say that things get a lot uglier after that.

To rephrase and update the situation: A great pestilence has overrun the land. Those who speak for the leaders of the nation, while serving their own interests, proclaim that the problem is almost over. Things will soon go back to the way they were. But speaking for the God who made them, who saved them from slavery in Egypt, and who keeps them close—a young, reluctant, voice disagrees. "Until it is clear that things have changed," he says, "we still have a problem."

If this scenario sounds familiar, it is not just because it reflects what life is like for us as we live in the midst of a deadly pandemic, or that it reflects what life is like for a nation that has failed to overcome its historical roots of domination and slavery over other people because of their race.

It is mostly familiar to us because it reflects the deeply rebellious spirit that lives in the heart of every human being. We do not want to hear the truth about our own failure to know and love God. We don't want to hear the truth about our failure to show love and compassion for all people, those known to us, as well as those who are different or make us uncomfortable. We do not want to hear the truth that the God of our making has a "third-party" interest in everything we say and everything we do.

In the Gospel for today, Jesus describes the interest that God has in our lives vividly when he says to his disciples, "Whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me; and whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—none of these will lose their reward." Later, Jesus struggles with God's interest in his life in the Garden of Gethsemane. Just hours before he will be arrested and crucified, an event that revealed God's deep love for the whole world and changed everything about it, Jesus prays for his life, "Not my will," he says, "but yours be done."

There is a story told about Mother Theresa about a time when she was being interviewed by representatives of the media from around the world, something she didn't do very often. Someone asked her where she got the ability to live the way she did, to give her life away for the sake of the poorest of the poor in the world. At the time she didn't have much of an answer. All she could say was that she would pray. But the question got her to thinking about it, and she later wrote a more detailed account of her strength for serving others. She said, "I begin with silence and discover that the fruit of silence is prayer, and that the fruit of prayer is faith, and that the fruit of faith is love, and that the fruit of love is service, and that the fruit of service is peace."

Only one of the three guys I mentioned earlier, that I met 43 years ago in seminary, fulfilled a calling to become a Lutheran pastor. "The Cursing Carpenter" disappeared sometime before Christmas, when the rains turned to ice and the ice turned to snow. Erik could not keep up with his studies and dropped out when he could not get certified of internship. I can only assume he took his vestments with him where he could serve as an unordained worship assistant at a large congregation. But Rick made it. "The Fat Man" graduated with me and entered into a successful youth ministry before I lost track of him.

In the end, Jeremiah got it right, "When the word of the prophet who prophesies peace comes true, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet."

Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925-2000; Music: Ghanaian folk tune

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
Show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

Neighbors are wealthy and poor, varied in color and race,
Neighbors are nearby and far away.

These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;
All these are neighbors to us and you.

Kneel at the feet of our friends, silently washing their feet:
This is the way we will live with you.

OFFERING

Please take a moment to give thanks to God for all that you have received in life, and remember your generous financial support of the ongoing ministry obligations of OSLC.

OFFERING PRAYER

PM: God of mercy and grace,
the eyes of all wait upon you,
and you open your hand in blessing.
Fill us with all good things,
that we may come to the help of all in need,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

OFFERING SONG

The Gifts are Many

Text: Andrew Donaldson, b. 1951; Music: English traditional

The gifts are many, the Body one, and into one are all baptized.
Beloved, share one heart, one mind, one hope, one faith, one love in Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Adapted from the NW Washington Synod "Weekly Prayer Message" ...

God of life and breath, you are our source of hope.

+ We give thanks for your gracious gifts of love and life; embrace and nurture us in your love; sustain us when we are feeling frightened or disheartened; open our hearts and minds to hear your word and call; strengthen us to take action to seek justice for our neighbors; grant us courage and creativity to joyfully share your Good News.

We give thanks for your creation.

+ Enable us to be educated, equipped, and inspired to be better stewards of your world. We give thanks for our partners at [Earth Ministry](#) and [Lutherans Restoring Creation](#).

We pray for our world, nation, and local communities.

+ We lift up people for whom insecurity, violence, and fear are the norm. Help us to bring healing, wholeness, and safety to all.

+ During this month of PRIDE, we are especially mindful of our LGBTQ siblings. We give thanks for our partners in ministry: [Open Door Ministries](#), [Reconciling Works](#), and [Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries](#). Creator God, we marvel in awe of the expansiveness of your creation. Your margins of diversity are boundless, and for that, we thank you. Each of our beloved siblings are beautifully and wonderfully made, all in Your image. Teach us to love people, just as they are, and embrace their identity fully, as you have embraced us.

+ God of Mercy, guide us to recognize our prejudices and empower us take action to eliminate the racism that permeates our communities and our church. O God, open our eyes, our ears, and our minds. Help us to behold one another as you behold us. Help us to be more firmly rooted in the practices of the gospel—so that the way we live will make real the dream of your beloved community within and among us.

+ We pray for all in the wake of natural disasters, including recent cyclones and tropical storms. Grant strength to those affected as they recover and rebuild.

+ We lift up all in our community who provide emergency services: medical workers, firefighters, and police. Grant them wisdom and safety.

We pray for all who are in need of healing and strength:

+ We pray for those who are facing ongoing challenges and health concerns: Mike, Pattie, Paul, Lyle, Bodil, Perrin, Marilyn, Linda, Dave, Emily, Guests of the Community Meals Program, Sonja, Nicole, Josee and Jeannie.

+ We continue to pray for those affected by the COVID-19 crisis: bring peace and comfort to the families of those who have died; grant healing for those diagnosed; protect and sustain medical workers, care providers, first responders and chaplains; guide those working to improve testing and those working toward a vaccine; sustain those who are facing financial uncertainty; and help us to be wise as we emerge from our stay at home order.

+ Loving God, you call us to care for our neighbors. Inspire our leaders and guide us to be better advocates for the sake of each member in our community - especially those who have little power and no voice.

+ We pray for our neighbors who are fearful or in danger in their relationships. We lift up the work of those who protect, support, and advocate for people who are experiencing domestic violence.

We pray for those who are grieving:

+ Loving God, wrap your arms of love and hope around all who are experiencing any kind of loss, disconnection, or brokenness. We lift up the family and friends of Dick, Germaine, Bob, Fran, Joe, Don, Tim, and Karen.

We pray for your church:

+ We give thanks for the leaders and members of ministries of our congregation. Grant them energy and creativity for their work; give them grace to rest and find peace.

+ We pray for the residents, staff, and families of nursing homes and care facilities, including those ministries that are part of our synod: Josephine Caring Community, Foss Home, Columbia Lutheran Home, Norse Home, Bethany of the Northwest, and Hearthstone Community.

+ We pray for congregations in the call process. Grant them wisdom and patience as they discern where it is that you are leading them. We lift up transition teams, call committees, transition pastors, congregation staff and lay leaders, and synod staff.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

+ Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Trusting in your mercy and grace, we lift our prayers to you.

Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

BLESSING

PM: May God the sower,
make you good and fertile soil.
May Christ the seed
bloom and grow in your words and actions.
May the fruitful Spirit
bring forth a bountiful yield in your lives.
God the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit
bless you now and forever.

C: Amen

SENDING SONG

You Are Mine — Text & Music: David Haas, b. 1957

Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you, and you are mine.

POSTLUDE

June, The Seasons — Tchaikovsky

Jan Hazelton, Jiyoung Lee

Commemorations for the Week

Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, died around 202, Sunday, June 28

This important early church leader tried very hard to hold to the faith handed down by the apostles. An opponent of the movement known as gnosticism, Irenaeus was one of the first to speak of the church as catholic, or linked together.

Peter and Paul, Apostles, Monday, June 29

These two strong-willed apostles are the pillars of the church in the first generation after Christ. Peter was one of the Twelve, one who both offered a glorious confession of faith and later denied knowing Jesus. Paul once led the persecution of Christians, then was converted and helped bring the faith to non-Jewish people.

Catherine Winkworth, died 1878; John Mason Neale, died 1866; Wednesday, July 1

Neale was an English priest who specialized in the translation of Latin and Greek hymns into English. Winkworth lived in Manchester, England, and devoted herself to translating German hymns. Almost all English-speaking hymnals include many of their translations.

Thomas, Apostle, Friday, July 3

Though frequently remembered as "doubting Thomas," this apostle also demonstrated a willingness to suffer and die with Jesus (John 11:16), and finally claimed the risen Christ as "my Lord and my God!" By tradition, he later worked as a missionary in India. Long commemorated on December 21, Thomas's celebration is moved to July 3 in agreement with ecumenical calendars.

Serving in Worship:

Worship Leader:	Pastor Jim Kruse
Assisting Minister:	Mary Ann Hult
Song Leaders:	Lori Downey, Alice Lewis, Leslie Waltzer, David Hersey, Marc Montague
Flute:	Jan Hazelton
Videographer:	Elizabeth Waltzer
Banner:	Elaine Stamm
Bulletin Cover:	Craig Gillin

Readings for Next Sunday: Zechariah 9:9-12; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

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Our Savior Lutheran Church Staff

Rev. James R. Kruse, *Transition Pastor*
Shari Lundberg, *Parish Administrator*
Dr. Jiyoung Lee, *Parish Organist*

Scott Hafso, *Director of Worship & Music*
Kate Gagnon, *Lay Visitation Minister*



Additional worship resources:

Readings: Psalm 89: 1-4, 15-18; Romans 6: 12-23

Suggested Hymn for Listening: *All Are Welcome* — Text & Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Prayer is putting our faith into action. We invite you to include these people in your daily prayers. You can make prayer requests via email at office@oslcssaquah.org. All written requests will remain on this list for 4 weeks.

Mike Golick continued recovery and safe travel to an assisted living facility in Anchorage, Alaska. (brother-in-law to Patty Gerde)

Mike special ops military unexpectedly called up. (nephew of Dave and Marilyn Carlson)

Pattie Rutten, peace and strength as she recovers from a broken femur and the loss of her husband. (aunt of Mark Howe)

Paul Salazar continued recovery from a heart attack. (step-father to Cheryl Hauser)

Lyle Bentley successful radiation treatment. (Don Robertson)

Bodil Isop healing and comfort from shingles.

Perrin Green 4 years old, unexplained brain activity leading to seizures. (Mary Ann Hult)

Marilyn Grey comfort as she enters hospice care. (mother to Mark Cron)

Linda Chambers comfort and peace following the death of her husband. (sister of Barbara Hinds)

Dave Carlson continued strength, healing and comfort following kidney transplant surgery.

Emily Gacek acquired COVID19 from a caregiver, healing and strength. (Connie Fletcher)

Guests of the Community Meals Program safety, health and peace of mind. (Connie Fletcher)

Sonja 3 years old undergoing treatment for cancer. (granddaughter of Henrik & Patty Christopherson)

Nicole DeCamp healing and strength. (Ken DeCamp and Cheryl Leiter)

Josee Jordan peace of mind as she faces health challenges. (Dianne Tanner)

Jeannie Lindquist continued healing and strength.

Healing and peace of mind: Evy Sneva (Karen Hansen), **Marian James; Douglas Mandt** (brother of Mary Ann Hult and Lorna Robertson); **Gregory** (nephew of Joanne Suttmeier); **Doug Patur; Katie Moeller; Margot Inman; Ken Acker** (son of Lucy Acker); **Marilyn Carlson; Taufik Hidayut** (Ken Konigsmark); **Don Wilkinson** (husband of Gwynn Wilkinson); **Rebecca Thomas; Tanisha Foote** (Marilyn Carlson); **Dorothy Soland; Randi Strom; Jeanne Kuipers; Talton Johnson; John Pass; Florence Kinnune; Carol Harbolt; Sandy Aldworth; Jen Winslow; Larry Pruitt.**

Undergoing cancer treatment: **Amy Aldworth** (daughter-in-law of Sandy Aldworth) **Les Carlson** (father of Dave Carlson); **Harold Mandt** (brother of Mary Ann Hult and Lorna Robertson); **Chris Howe** (brother of Mark Howe); **Peggy Scalise** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Eileen Letts** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Keith DeCamp** (brother of Ken DeCamp); **Barbara Jones** (mother of Ron Sordahl); **Doug McVety** (Helen Nychay); **Al Batt** (Connie Fletcher); **Larry Harbolt** (Ray Harbolt); **Gerald Welch** (Vern and Jeannie Lindquist); **Joe Martin** (father of Stacy Smith); **Christy Williams** (Bill Bergsma); **Diane Powis** (Paul Tolo); **Dana Mancini** (Jan Setterlund); **Greg Petersen** (Wes Collum); **Barry Donker** (Joan Parish); **Germaine Korum** (Lyle and Alice Lewis); **Kathryn Aitcheson** (Gerrie Hendrickson); **Yuko Takiguchi** (Teiko Soland); **Barb** (Janette Singley)

Living with cancer: **Liz Kidd** (Bob Beck); **Duane Jacobson; Mary Lewis** (sister-in-law of Lyle and Alice Lewis); **Mark Becker** (uncle of Paula Seeger); **Barbara Krogh Jarvis** (sister of Steve Krogh); **Suzanne Lewis** (daughter-in-law of Lyle & Alice Lewis); **Mira Bergsma**

Mourning the death of loved ones: For peace and comfort during this time of grieving for the family and friends of: **Richard "Dick" Birdsall** (Dianne Tanner); **Germaine Korum** (Lyle & Alice Lewis); **Bob Gray** (Doug & Dianne Tanner); **Fran Hildebrand** (Karen Hansen); **Joe Rutten** (uncle of Mark Howe); **Don Brannon** [former member of OSLC] (Rowan Hinds); **Don McWhirter** (Rowan Hinds); **Tim Teodoro** (Janet Heck); **Karen Miley** (Doug & Dianne Tanner)

Members and friends serving in the military; fire & police departments, & emergency rooms.

Global Missions and Missionaries: For peace in Hong Kong. (Global Missions). **Henrik & Patty Christopherson.** Congregations in Chiclayo, Peru: **Pepe** at Las Brisas, **Merci** in San Antonio and **Harold** at Las Lomas. **MaaSae Girls Lutheran Secondary School** in Tanzania.

