

November 13, 2020 Update

Dear ones,

This is some information that you all need to know about a variety of things that are going on in the congregation in the next weeks.

1. Budget meeting: Sunday, November 29 at 11AM. The Council has approved a budget for 2021 that now goes to the congregation for approval. Watch for the Zoom invitation to register and be part of that important meeting in the life of the congregation.

2. Stewardship: Stewardship Sunday--November 22, 2020. For the last few weeks you have been receiving Stewardship moment from members of the congregation to remind you of the blessings that Adoration offers members of the congregation and the larger community. You can be so very proud of your church. This week you will receive in the regular mail a letter from this year's Stewardship Committee asking you to prayerfully consider your pledge for 2021. You will also find a copy of a pledge card. You can either bring that with you at the Curbside Communion on November 22--or get it in the mail this week so that it arrives in the church mail by Saturday, November 21.

3. Next Curbside Communion: Sunday, November 22, 9AM-10AM. The next Curbside Communion will be the Sunday after next, November 22. This time we are collecting men's jeans and underwear (boxers or briefs). Larger sizes are much appreciated. The jeans do not have to be new. Just washed. If you are thinking of buying you might consider Goodwill or St. Vincent DePaul. For the homeless community, jeans are a prized commodity. So, if you have an old pair you'd be willing to part with--or you are able to shop somewhere, that would be great! These items will be take to Repairer's of the Breach--the only day program for homeless individuals in Milwaukee county.

For this next Curbside Communion you might bring:

- a. Your pledge card for 2021 (that you will receive in the mail this week.)
- b. Your offering for that Sunday.
- c. Men's jeans or underwear.

4. Meru Coffee: HOLIDAY GIFTS?

Mt. Meru Coffee Project Holiday Items:

This year Mt. Meru Coffee Project will again be offering it's Holiday Sampler which include six 2oz packages of their premium coffee. Each sampler will include one package of each of the following flavors: Regular, Peaberry, Chocolate Raspberry, French Vanilla, Hazelnut, and Butter Pecan. Holiday Samplers are selling for \$18.00 if purchased through a partner congregation.

In addition to the Holiday Sampler, Mt. Meru Coffee Project is also offering a special Makumira Farms Holiday Blend. This year's peaberry coffee from the small farms of the Makumira cooperative has been rated higher than most other coffees available globally. This Makumira coffee is blended with other Mt Meru peaberry to balance the flavor and offers a hint chocolate-like flavor. The Makumira Farms Holiday Blend is selling for \$19.00 when purchased through a partner congregation.

As Adoration's Coffee Ambassador to the Mt Meru Coffee Project, I will do my best to have these items available for purchase during our drive-thru communions. Also available for purchase at that time are the other various coffee items that are regularly available year round. If you would like something that I don't normally stock (flavored decaf options, single serve/K-cup boxes, etc.) Please let me know and I can special order these items. If you need a large quantity of either of the holiday items, please call/text/e-mail

me so I can make sure to have them available. Payments can be made in cash or check. Checks to be made out to Adoration Lutheran with Meru Coffee in the memo line.

Your support of the Mt Meru Coffee Project is much appreciated both here and in Tanzania!

Jessica Hodgson (608) 797-2948

5. Christmas 16th Annual "We Love Our Church" auction: November 27-December 4.

Yeah! Katie Schmidt is coordinating another "We Love our Church" auction for Adoration!! We are so excited at this chance to raise some funds for the church and have some fun while doing so! Here are the dates you need to pay attention to:

Donations to the auction: no later than 11/26 at 7:00PM (the earlier the better)

Donations, pictures, descriptions must be sent via email to Katie by that time, the earlier the better.

Then, donations must either be dropped off to her house BEFORE Sunday morning (December 6th) or be at Church by 8:15 on Sunday morning.

Start date for the auction: 11/27--"Black Friday."

End date for the auction: December 4

Pick up of items: December 6 from 9AM-10AM at the Curbside Communion that day.

For more information please contact Katie at:

6. ERAS Contactless Volunteer Opportunity:

ERAS will be partnering up with Milwaukee County Department on Aging (MCDA) and Hunger Task Force to help deliver a monthly Stock Box to seniors in Milwaukee County during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

A Stock Box is a box of healthy foods that Hunger Task Force delivers to low-income seniors free of charge. Each box contains 16 nutritious items including rice, cereal, juice, beef stew, pasta, and vegetables. Each month, nearly 9,000 boxes are delivered to seniors in Southeastern Wisconsin.

Volunteers would pick up the Stock Box from one of the following Senior Centers and deliver it to the assigned senior.

- Wilson Park, 2601 W Howard Ave, Milwaukee. Third Tuesday of each month from 11 – 12:30pm
- Next pick-up date: 11/17
- McGovern Park, 4500 W Custer Ave, Milwaukee. Fourth Monday of each month from 12 – 1pm
- Next pick-up date: 11/23
- Clinton Rose, 3045 N Dr MLK Dr, Milwaukee. First Thursday of each month from 10 – 11am
- Next pick-up date: 12/3

If you are interested in helping with this effort, please reply to this E-mail or contact Melva at 414-488-6931. Thank you all for your continued support of our senior clients!

7. Message from the Adoration Call Committee. You can be very proud of your committee. They are doing thoughtful, careful, prayerful work to discern the candidate who will be the best fit for Adoration.

From Sandy Young, Chair, Adoration Call Committee:

Your call committee continues on its mission to find the best fit for our congregation. We are about to begin with a third round of candidates to interview as soon as the candidates become available to us. We, along with the Synod, are working hard for all of you and ask that you continue to pray for us throughout our journey.

Those are all the updates. Please let me know if you need something. I hope to see lots of you at the next Curbside Communion on November 22. Much love to you all, Pastor Debra

(The Rev.) Debra Trakel, LCSW, M.Div.

She/her

" My wish for you is that you continue. Continue to be who and how you are, to astonish a mean world with your acts of kindness. Continue to allow humor to lighten the burden of your tender heart." (Maya Angelou)

November 1, 2020 Update

This is the update on Adoration issues for all of you that you have been receiving until we can do a newsletter again. From various parts of the congregation:

From Amanda Robison, our Parish Administrator:

When you are sending things to the office, please make sure that you are sending them to the new "Gmail" account and not the old "Hotmail" account. Our office email is: adorationlutheran@gmail.com

Also, if you need to reach Pastor Debra, try her on her cell phone or on her home phone rather than leaving a message on the office phone. You will get her much more swiftly. Those numbers are: 414-339-9266 (cell) or 262-255-9266 (home).

From Wendy Haas, Stewardship Chair

Dear Adoration members,

Your Stewardship Committee (Barb Regent, Jill Lindberg, George Becker, Kathy Wakefield, Wendy Haas, Chair), and Pastor Debra, have been working hard to remind you that everything you have comes from God. And to ask you to consider what of God's financial gifts to you that you might choose to offer through Adoration.

You have been seeing Stewardship Moments these past weeks, attached to emails from Pastor Debra and the Prayers of Intercession. We are grateful to all of those who are willing to share how God has continued to be at work within Adoration, even during the pandemic!

Soon, we will have a new Pastor and we want to continue to have a financially healthy church to offer the new Pastor. So, watch in these coming weeks for a

letter from our committee and your pledge card (along with a stamped addressed envelope!). November 22 is Stewardship Sunday. This is the day to either return your pledge during a Curbside Communion, or to have it returned to the church through the mail by that day. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful generosity.

From Sandy Eigner, Outreach Chair

An update on various ministries:

Divine Intervention:

Jessica, Dan and Janet continue to serve the Hungry Hearts ministry handing out meals prepared by local restaurants to those in need. The meals are distributed each Saturday from 11:30-1pm outside the Damascus Gate restaurant on 9th and Mitchell.

Thank you Janet McGinty for continuing to represent Adoration and for your hard work with the S.O.S. program (Note: in the preparation of 45 bagged lunches which included two meat and cheese sandwiches, fruit, chips, breakfast bars and dessert.) We distributed these lunches along with 60 hot meals donated by Jim Dandy's restaurant on 27th. On December 11 Jenna Bednar and Janet McGinty will be making the bag lunches and serving. I was able to get a Trivent card to pay for most of this meal. If anyone wants to donate or volunteer for the February lunches, please contact Janet at 414-699-5989 or by email at jlmcginty@tds.net. This ministry will now include bag lunches for Larry Under the Bridge.

Habitat for Humanity:

Thank you Jess and Dan for all your hard work with the fundraiser. which we collected over our promised contribution.

Prayer Ministry:

Wrapped in Love--Wendy Hass has introduced, and has been approved from the Council to start this ministry. From Wendy, "[This ministry is about] some dedicated souls who are continuing to crochet or knit prayer wraps or prayer pocket squares to be ready for when we return to the building. The building is closed but God's work continues!" Thank you, Wendy, for all your hard work.

Repairers of the Breach:

Thank you everyone for the collections to this very important need during several Curbside Communion. (Note: socks, hats, gloves, underwear.)

Thank you everyone for the continued outreach to our community. Our building may be closed but the heart of Adoration continues to serve our community.

Blessings, Sandy Eigner

From Sandy Young, Chair, Adoration Call Committee

Your Adoration call committee has completed first interviews with our second round of potential pastoral candidates. We are meeting again this week, Thursday, October 29th, for more discernment concerning following up with possible second interviews with these candidates. Thank you all for your continued prayers!
In Christ, Sandy Young

From Pastor Debra and Wendy Haas
Congregational Caller Committee

There is a faithful group of Adoration members who are calling other members.

Every two to three weeks if you have a current phone number listed in our directory, you have been getting a call from someone at Adoration. They are calling: to let you know that Adoration is thinking about you and praying for you, to find out if there is something that you need from the church, and to be a conduit to the Pastor who does not see you all as would happen during a normal month. If you receive a call and they leave a message on your voicemail or answering machine, please call them back. They will leave their name and number so that you can do that. If they do not hear from you, they will send a card. Please let them know that you have received it.

Adoration is getting ready for a new Pastor very soon. And this group will be an essential way that your new Pastor will be able to get to know where the pastoral needs are in the congregation. This group will be, in essence, the eyes and ears of Christ for Adoration.

We are grateful to all of these callers for doing this essential ministry. Please let them know how you are.

From Katie Schmidt and Ted Lazaris, Christmas Online Auction

Katie Schmidt has very graciously offered to do another online auction that will attempt to replicate part of the joy we have each Christmas with our auction. (Ed. note: Without, of course, the amusement of Ted's auctioneering or his ongoing competition with Tom Nowakowski!)

These are the dates for our 16th annual "We Love Our Church Auction."

Start date: November 27th on "Black Friday."

End date: December 4th.

Donations to the auction may be made no later than November 26th at 8:00 P.M.

Pickup of items will be done at our Curbside Communion on December 6 from 9AM-10AM.

For more information contact either Ted Lazaris (tmlazaris@att.net) or Katie Schmidt (la_flauta@hotmail.com)

From Pastor Debra, Interim Pastor
Grace Needed

You will very soon have a new Pastor. You might be interested to know that all Pastors talk about this day is how to manage a church during a pandemic. Your new Pastor will also be consumed with this issue because they will be trying to enter into your system blind. It's a new reality. It's not a new normal; it is truly a new reality.

And every church, on some level, is struggling with this new reality. All churches have some controversy because not everyone is on the same page regarding the pandemic. None of us Pastor have ever been confronted with the types of controversies we are now expected to manage. We love all of you and so the controversies are challenging.

The following controversial issues are the ones that your new Pastor is going to be facing. They are the ones that I and your Council have been managing or some months now. (Borrowing from the church blogger, Thom Rainer). The list, of course, is not exhaustive nor is it mutually exclusive.

Mask vs. no mask. This one is by far the most common. Members get mad if

masks are required. Members get mad if masks aren't required. Masks or no masks for some members become a sign of political affiliation.

Social distance vs. no social distance. As an extrovert, I have found this a particular challenge. But some members strongly prefer it. And some members really don't like it and just want to be closer "like they always gave been." Yet, if you don't practice social distancing in the church, some members don't like that either.

Change vs. no change. Of course, this debate is not new. But the pace of change has been exacerbated by the pandemic. Some members don't understand why the church can't get back to the way it's always done things. Other members think it's time to move rapidly before the blank slate becomes cluttered.

Same personnel vs. change in personnel. One church discovered during the pandemic it really did not need a full-time receptionist. Relatively few people came in the church facilities pre-COVID, and the number dropped to almost zero from the quarantine to today. The leaders deleted the position. Some members were really mad.

Zoom vs. no Zoom. Just like a number of employees liked the digital opportunity to work from anywhere, so did many church members who connected with other church members through Zoom or some other video technology. This debate is particularly evident in the ministry of small groups. Some want to keep the ministry digital. Others want to meet in person. The Pastor wants two ibuprofen.

Regather vs. don't regather. For many churches, this season of regathering is in its early transitional stage and in our Synod, our Bishop is strongly recommending we do not meet in our buildings because the risk is so high. And as some churches move to go back into their buildings, some members are choosing to remain digital because it feels safer to them. This changes the workload of your Pastor. And in addition, there are now divisions in some churches between the regathered and the digital.

It seems the one area where we need to focus more powerfully is grace. We need to show grace to pastors (you are about to have a new one!) and other church leaders who feel like they are making lose-lose decisions. We need to show grace to members who are not ready to regather. Some of them are elderly. Some of them have young children and are not ready to expose them to crowds. Some have underlying conditions that make them more vulnerable. Some of them have loved ones who are sick or who have died. And the number of people at Adoration who have experienced the full ferocity of this virus, including death among loved ones is rising each week.

Maybe our focus for this season should be more of a focus on grace. After all, we have been shown grace by a Savior who died for us. I think, perhaps, the least we can do is to demonstrate grace and an attitude of humility to those with whom we may have different opinions. Because that's what Jesus would do.

Love to you all, Pastor Debra

From Kirk, the Church Dog
Grace Abounds (with Gravy)

So, my mama asked me if I wanted to say anything to all of you in this month's email. I always have something to say (mostly to squirrels and rabbits in our front yard). But there are a few things that I wanted to say to all of you.

I have to say that I am loving this time. My mamas sound very worried often, but they are home with me A LOT, and I really love that. I think that's what they call a "silver lining."

You know, I get up every day and I just look forward to another day of treats and belly rubs. I just love my mamas so much, and I forgive them easily when they forget to get my dinner on time (Ed. note: that would be 4PM on the dot), or spend so much time on those computer things when they could be walking or petting me. I am never burdened by what could be, I just enjoy every day for what it is. And life is good. Every meal I have is the BEST MEAL EVER (and even better with gravy!) And I have the two BEST MAMAS EVER who bring me new friends (including this one three-year-old that I really like! Ed. note: grandson), who offer me treats and a place to cuddle on their laps when I get cold. (Ed note: Kirk is an Alabama rescue boy, he gets cold often.) And I can always find a sliver of sunlight somewhere.

When we go in the car, I just enjoy the ride. It doesn't matter where we go, I just am glad to be along for the ride, and to be with my mamas.

But here is the really important thing I want to say to all of you today: I think you need to come when you are called. My mamas have been working with me on that one for many years. I don't always do it perfectly. Sometimes I just want to stay snuggled in some covers, or stay at the window to watch the squirrels in the yard. But my mamas tell me that being willing to come when you are called is important for safety. And they tell me that, for them, responding to God's call is also important.

So, I hope that you can all can live in the moment. Enjoy the ride. Take a nap now and then. And come when you are called. And thanks, always, for that great long hall you have for me to run in when I visit!

Love, and woof, Kirk

This is an addendum to the all congregation update.

1. Budget meeting: November 29 will be the all congregation budget meeting on Zoom. (Stewardship Sunday as was mentioned in the last email is November 22.)

2. Contribution to Ascension: Adoration contributed \$1,000 to the Ascension food ministry in October. We continue to be so very generous in doing God's work even during this pandemic.

3. November Birthdays:

11/2 Nina Ceccato

11/2 Brandon Eigner

11/4 Dick Kaquatosh

11/7 Cheryl Stefanski

11/8 Tiffany Lancour

11/8 Kevin Ziolkowski, Jr.

11/9 Cheryl Hagfors

11/10 Linda Wood

11/10 Doreen Zimmerman

11/12 Lori Glisch

11/12 Jan Rinderle

11/13 Gary Kerlin

11/13 Joyce Weinert

11/16 Joani Bettin

11/17 Jeanette Nowakowski

11/17 Jason Williams

11/19 Mary Ann Markiewicz

11/22 Jeff Cwiklinski

11/22 Susan Wilde

11/24 Katie Schmidt

11/27 Myron Wargolet