

RADISSON-LANGHAM LUTHERAN PARISH

First Saskatchewan Lutheran Church
Langham, SK

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Radisson, SK

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 17, 2020

St. Paul, Radisson/First Saskatchewan, Langham
Members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
Ministers: Members of the Congregation
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Greeting: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Prayer of the Day:

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Acts 17:22-31

Psalm 66:8-20

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:13-22

Holy Gospel: John 14:15-21

Reflection on Being Apart - Peter Kingsmill

As I write this, eight Sundays have passed since we last got together as a congregation. It is certainly not the only time in my life that I have missed worship service for eight Sundays in a row, but somehow this feels different. As Bishop Susan says in her sermon this morning, "we can keep in touch with loved ones by telephone or a number of electronic means, but it's not the

same as being together, or giving and receiving hugs." Likewise, sharing a cup of coffee or a meal doesn't work particularly well in what has become, for the moment anyway, our "virtual" society, but as we have learned through our growing relationship with God, even our relationship with him can seem pretty "virtual" - or remote - some days. We can find comfort that Jesus has sent his Spirit to be with us through such times as these.

The Spirit is never divided ... it only grows, and it is heartwarming to know that we have a great relationship with each other and with our sister congregation at First Saskatchewan. I have had the pleasure of being able to talk through our challenges with my council colleague Eric (Chair at First Sask) these last eight weeks, and to know that the congregation at Langham is as strong and content as we at St. Paul, and that we wish each other well and pray together for better times. Through his "day job", Eric has been at meetings (as recently as Wednesday) that involved the provincial cabinet, and was assured that the Premier will not be expanding recovery guidelines to include churches at least until June.

The First Sask Council did meet by teleconference recently, and certainly the members of Council there have no plan to rush things. I agree, not only to cooperate with the health department's recovery plan but above all to ensure that we don't risk any harm to one another, so I am cancelling the proposed special meeting of council at St. Paul which was to be this Wednesday (20th) and am calling a meeting at our regular time on Tuesday June 2nd. In the meantime, may each of us strengthen our relationship - no matter how "virtual" it seems - with our God and with one another.

Prayers of Intercession:

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A Brief Silence

Abiding God, you have revealed yourself to us in the form of your Son, Jesus Christ. Embolden your church, as your followers, to reveal your

love to everyone in our speaking and in our living. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You are the creator of heaven and earth. Revitalize the health of oceans, rivers, lakes, springs, glaciers, and other bodies of water that give life to your creatures. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You call all people of the world your children. Judge the nations justly, show mercy to the oppressed, and speak truth to power through your prophets. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You come near to us when we are lost, and you hear our distress. We pray for those who suffer in any way (especially...). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Your commands are good and merciful. Give us courage to take hold of our baptismal promises to work for justice, advocate for the voiceless, and free the oppressed and imprisoned in body, mind, or spirit. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You remain with us always, O God, and your kingdom has no end. We remember the saints who have gone before us. Unite us forever in your final victory over death. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Fifth Sunday of Easter: Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

Pastor Melissa will not have a message this week as she had dental surgery last week. She will hopefully be with us again next week.

Let us remember in our prayers: Connie Verishine, Susan Wonko, Gloria Hamp, Guy Norton, Heather Penno, Inga Abrahamson, Genie Thompson, Linda Hartshorn, Logan Kane, Lynn Sherstobitoff, Don Wenner, David Friesen, Alma Krueger, Anthony Flath, Elsie Flath, Conrad Olson, Ethel Kuny, Ida Muller, Mark Anderson, Roger Wilkie, Lisa Hamp

Also for everyone affected by COVID 19 - those who have been infected, those who are quarantined, those who continue to care for the sick, those making major decisions.

For more worship services/devotions you could check out the following:

- Our National Bishop Susan Johnson will have a sermon Sunday at:

<https://m.youtube.com/user/ELCIC1/videos>

- For an actual service there is a list of available livestreams at:

<https://elcic.ca/publichealth/livestreaming.cfm>

- Lutherans Connect Easter season blog is three days a week and it can be found at <https://lcabidingwithlove.blogspot.com/2020/05/>

- There is a resource available through the ELCA for in-home worship each Sunday:

<https://blogs.elca.org/worship/2248/>

- Pastor Randy Fiege is live on Facebook every day at 11:00a with a devotional, as well as a service Sunday morning at 11:00a. You can also access him on YouTube - just search Pastor Randy Fiege.

During this COVID 19 crisis, remember we need to stay connected and we can stay in touch with others simply by making a phone call!! Let us remember our members who may feel isolated and lonely, the elderly and others in our community. Please, don't forget them!

Job Opportunity - Resurrection Lutheran Church, Saskatoon is looking for a secretary/treasurer. Applications are due by June 1, 2020 to Judy Prociuk, email: judyp1@sasktel.net

The Langham Community Refugee Sponsorship Committee is looking for donations to fund dental work for the group's sponsored refugee family. Our refugee family arrived at the end of October - two parents and four boys. The mother and father are in bad need of dental work. Some work will be covered by the federal government's dental plan for refugee families but not all. The amount needed to cover their dental work is around \$3500.00. If you are interested in making a donation, you may send an e-transfer to cbueckert@sasktel.net or send a cheque to the Langham Mennonite Fellowship, Box 285, Langham, SK S0K 2L0. If you wish to receive a charitable tax receipt, provide name and mailing address along with your donation. Thank you.

Lutheran Campus Ministry is asking for your financial support as their primary fund raisers did not happen. If you can help out, please send your donation to Lutheran Campus Ministry, 1302 College Drive, Saskatoon, SK S7N 0W5 or through your church offering envelop.

Synod News is available to anyone who may be interested in what is happening in the Saskatchewan Synod. The Synod News may be information about an event that is coming up, or a story about an event that has happened. It might be a letter from the national bishop, or a post from the Sask Synod bishop. Check it out at <https://sasksynod.ca/news/synod-news/>

Even though we don't meet each Sunday for worship, the expenses are still there. You can still give your donation to your church:

First Sask - You can mail your cheque to Roxanne Elke, P.O. Box 272, Grandora, SK S0K 1V0.

St. Paul - You could send your cheque to Darlene Kindt, Box 97, Radisson or drop it off at the church.

St. Paul - printed copies of each week's bulletin, you can found at the back of the church or in a bag on the front step.

Happy Birthday this week: Shannon Flath, Matthew Waldner, Martin Hamp, Helena Johnson, Ryan Rothenburger, Melissa Schreiner, Kaitlin Hardcastle, Kylie Myshchyshyn

FIRST READING: ACTS 17:22-31

²² Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³ For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said,

For we too are his offspring.'

²⁹ Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰ While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

SECOND READING: 1 PETER 3:13-22

¹³ Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵ but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶ yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the

unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit,¹⁹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison,²⁰ who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.²¹ And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

GOSPEL: JOHN 14:15-21

¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.
¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever.¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in^ε you.

¹⁸ “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you.
¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live.²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”