

May 2021

To members and friends of Our Savior's,

"The only constant in life is change," Heraclitus. Theologically we might argue with the ancient Greek Philosopher, but he does have a point. Change is constant and it affects every aspect of life, including our religious and spiritual practices.

September 1, 2020 was the beginning of our program year. At that time we were in the midst of a pandemic. Our congregational worship services were online. Educational opportunities were either cancelled or held via zoom. Same was true with ministry meetings and various other congregational activities.

The shutdown, however, did allow our property committee to do some much needed maintenance. The property committee also provided oversight for the installation of a hearing loop system that will enhance the experience of the hard of hearing when using our facility. Our ministries to the hungry, those struggling with addictions, and those who are the 'least among us' continued, albeit in a different fashion. Fueling these ministries was/is an incredible spirit of generosity. Our tithes and offerings have remained strong throughout the pandemic and church leadership is very thankful for the tremendous financial support from so many. Such generosity allowed our congregation to repay the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan. Church leadership is also very grateful to those volunteers who come into the church and carry out ministry that often goes unnoticed. Additionally, we're grateful for staff that has often gone above and beyond to keep ministry alive and active.

Looking ahead, 2021-2022 will be a time of transition. As the pandemic becomes more and more a thing in the rearview mirror we'll move into a new normal. We hope to resume in-house live worship in July. This fall we hope to resume educational opportunities and various other activities. Pastor Kim announced his retirement in April (see attached letter) so the Council, in tandem with the Synod office, will implement a process for the eventual calling of a new pastor.

The pandemic has brought about much change. Some change has resulted in loss. And in the months ahead we'll recognize and mourn our losses. Yet, some change has also brought previously unseen or untapped opportunities to reach others with the love of our Lord. Yes, change is constant – that we agree. Let's also agree that God's presence, love and grace are constant as well, and with us always.

To the Glory of God,

Ben Panning, President
Diane Dahlin, Vice President
Carol Nordahl, Secretary/Treasurer
Kim Frenz, Pastor