MAY 2020 READINGS

May 3rd **Fourth Sunday of Easter**First Reading
Acts 2:42-47
Psalm
Psalm 23
Second Reading
1 Peter 2:19-25
Gospel

May 10th **Fifth Sunday of Easter**First Reading
Acts 7:55-60
Psalm
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
Second Reading
1 Peter 2:2-10
Gospel
John 14:1-14

John 10:1-10

May 17th **Sixth Sunday of Easter**First Reading
Acts 17:22-31
Psalm
Psalm 66:8-20
Second Reading
1 Peter 3:13-22
Gospel
John 14:15-21

May 24th **Seventh Sunday of Easter**First Reading
Acts 1:6-14
Psalm
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
Second Reading
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
Gospel
John 17:1-11

May 31st **Day of Pentecost**First Reading
Acts 2:1-21
Psalm
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Second Reading
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
Gospel
John 20:19-23

JERUSALEM JOURNAL

"As followers of Jesus, we serve our neighbors locally and globally."





PASTOR'S PONDERABLES - MAY 2020

There is a famous Chinese story about the farmer whose horse runs away. His neighbors are quick to comment on his bad luck. The farmer responds that no one can know what is good and what is bad. When the horse comes back with a wild stallion, the neighbors are quick to comment, this time talking about the farmer's good luck. Again, the farmer replies that no one can know what is good and what is bad. When the farmer's son breaks his leg trying to tame the wild stallion, the neighbors now are certain of the farmer's bad luck. Again, the farmer says that no one knows. When war breaks out, all the able-bodied young men are conscripted into battle except the farmer's son, who was spared because of his broken leg. (*The Book of Joy [conversations between His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, 2016]*)

In the midst of the current COVID-19 viral pandemic, sometimes it is hard to distinguish what is good and what is bad about the situation. Maybe we can find comfort in knowing that in other times and other places, people have experienced similar circumstances. And so, I share with you the following stories, the first sent to me by my son Hans (from his boss), and second from my dear friend Elizabeth Biliske, the third came from an internet source.

In 1665, when Isaac Newton was a student at Trinity College, Cambridge, the Great Plague of London hit. While scientists would not discover for another two hundred years the bacteria that causes plague, they knew that people needed to keep distance from each other. As a result, Cambridge sent its students home to continue their studies. Newton returned to Wollsthorpe Manor, the family estate about sixty miles northwest of the college. Outside his window, there was an apple tree. *That* apple tree, in fact - the tree that led to the nature of gravitation.

During his time away, Newton wrote mathematical papers that became early calculus. He conducted experiments that led to his theories on optics. And he developed theories related to gravitational forces.

He returned to Cambridge in 1667, bringing his theories with him. Within six months, he was made a fellow. In two years, he was a professor.

Martin Luther faced the plague. They didn't know how it was transmitted and death was always the prognosis. 60% of Europe was toast. Back in 1527, a deadly plague hit Martin Luther's town of Wittenberg and he wrote a letter to a friend (Luther's Works, Volume 43, Pg. 132: Whether

One Should Flee From A Deadly Plague – To Rev. Dr. John Hess), explaining how churches should deal with such complicated circumstances.

"I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me and I have done what he has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbor needs me, however, I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely as stated above. See this is such a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God."

-Martin Luther in a letter to a fellow pastor during an outbreak of the plague.

In 1632 the pestilence, a plague, had infested Oberammergau and by 1633 nearly every family had come to experience death. People, brought down with the pestilence, vowed to perform every ten years at the towns cemetery, a Passion play depiction the suffering and dying of Christ if there would be no more deaths by the pestilence. On Pentecost 1634 the population of Oberammergau performed for the first time the 'Play of suffering, dying and revival of our Lord Jesus Christ' on a stage which has been built at the pestilence cemetery, over the graves of those who had died of the plague. The Context originated from two other plays, a Passion Play from the second half of the 15th century and a Christian Reformation 'Tragedy by the Master Singer Sebastian Wild of Augsburg.' In the 5th year, in 1674, the context had been upgraded with the use of scenes of the Passion Play of Weilheim and in the 6th year, in 1680, the community decided that, after that Staging of the Play, the performances should take place every ten years thereafter.

In the 18th century the ideas of the rationalism found the way in the story of Passion Play. The Benedictine Ferdinand Rosner of Ettal turned the Play to a 'passio nova' and makes use of all the skills of the Baroque Theatre. In the 32nd year of the Play the architect Raimund Lang replaced the historic stage with a new, monumental and ascetically pleasing stage and at the same time enlarging the audience hall up to 5,200 seats, whilst his brother Georg produced the first modern performance of the Play. In 1990 there was surprise when the youngest ever Director was elected - the 27 years old sculptor Christian Stückl. Furthermore for the first time, married and older women could perform the Play - a right secured after the women of Oberammergau appealed to the highest regional court.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Bonnie Oplinger

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Roger L. Kurtz

As I write this article, an exact date for the return of our worshipping together as a faith community remains uncertain. The Reverend Carolyn Winfrey Gillette has written the hymn text shown on the next page for Christians observing Easter Sunday in isolation this year and has graciously given permission for churches to freely use it in publications, online postings,

Easter
Music

and the livestreaming of worship services. A Presbyterian pastor and hymn writer, Gillette currently serves as a co-pastor with her husband Bruce at the First Presbyterian Union Church in Owego, New York. May this hymn provide inspiration as we continue to celebrate Christ's resurrection during this joyous 50-day Easter season.

This Easter Celebration

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2020 Aurelia Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864 Eas - ter ce - le - bra - tion is not like ones we've known. gath-ered choirs are sing - ing; no ban-ners lead the No way. joy won't come from wor-ship that's Our in a crowd-ed room In the grief and suf-fering, may we re-mem-ber well: 4. We thank you that on Eas - ter, your church is blessed to be We pray i - so - la - tion, we sing the hymns a - lone. God love and prom - ise, where's joy this Eas - ter Day? but from the news of wom - en who saw the emp - ty tomb. Christ suf - fered cru - ci - fix - ion and faced the powers of hell. scat - tered, faith - ful bo - dy that's do - ing mi - ni - stry. We're dis-tant from our neigh - bors- from wor - ship lead - ers, too. emp - ty, may homes be-come the place With sanc-tu - a - ries joy comes from di - sci - ples who ran with haste to see-Our Eas - ter bears the pro-mise: Christ rose that glo-rious day! Each In homes and in the pla - ces of help and heal - ing, too, No flo - wers grace the chan - cel to fes - tive mood. set pon - der re - sur - rec - tion and ce - le - brate your grace. we who heard that Christ is ris - en, and then, by grace, be-lieved. no-thing in cre - a - tion can keep your love we the Eas - ter mes - sage by glad - ly serv - ing you.

> Copyright © 2020 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. Email: carolynshymns@gmail.com | New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com

WHAT IS GOING ON AT JERUSALEM?

Even though worship is suspended and all other meetings and activities held at the church, there is still ministry happening at Jerusalem. The Warwick Ministerium has partnered with the Warwick School District to prepare bags of food for children over the weekend who normally receive breakfast and/or lunch at school during the week. The school district continues to provide meals for the children during the week. The Church of the Brethren in Lititz collects donations of food and packages them for distribution each Saturday. The Lititz Mennonite Church and Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Rothsville serve at the two sites in the school district for children and their families to receive food from 10 am to 12 noon on a Saturday morning. There are two volunteers with Pastor who set up, distribute and clean up each Saturday morning. Below you will find out how this has been handled thus far at Jerusalem:

	Meals delivered to JELC	Meals distributed to families	Meals left for school the next week	Volunteers
March 21	65	45	20	Brad and Jill Clubb
March 28	100	51	49	Jean Slaymaker and Kathy Schreiber
April 4	80	65	15	Scott and Marlene Barr
April 11	115	65	50	Jean Slaymaker and Joyce Burkholder
April 18	140	91	49	Brad and Jill Clubb
April 25	200	72	128	Deb and Dave Carson

If you would be willing and able to serve as a volunteer for this on-going ministry, please contact Pastor Oplinger @ (484) 388-0563.

ROCK Connection has been suspended for the rest of the school year, however, the disciples at Millport Mennonite Church continue to serve a meal to those who would come to ROCK. The food distribution now occurs in the Warwick Lions Park on a Tuesday afternoon.



PRAYER CONCERNS

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING: Audrey Adams, Nate Barnica, Lynn Beard, Tyler Cassel, Spencer Ehrhart, Jacob Garman, Ashley, Nick & Weston Hertzler, Alma Hollingsworth, Joe Hoover, Cheri Kurtz, Tina Little, Lillian Logeman, Lucille Martin, Doug Michael, Florence Morgan, Norma Rhoads, Lisa Riley, Russell Schreiber, Vince Slaymaker,

the family of Tom and Beth Smith, Gerald Styer, Jean Summers, Charles & Mary Ann Sweigart, Reba Weit, Evelyn Wissler, Wyatt Wolfe, Craig Young, all Military Personnel, First Responders, Healthcare workers, the helpers and all the residents at Luthercare.



Due to the Corona Virus, the May17th Bake Auction Sale is postponed to the Fall.

Thank you for understanding, The Service Committee



The Church Picnic is scheduled for **Sunday, June 7**th **at 10:00am** in the Warwick Township Lions Park.

Check the bulletin for further details. contingent on the bishop's and governor's recommendations.

NEXT STEPS

In an effort to prepare for the time when church can be reopened for worship, it was suggested that we poll the congregation regarding their comfort level in this regard. It must also be noted that a majority of Jerusalem's congregation is 65 years of age or older. There were originally 62 people contacted by e-mail or telephone to reply to the questionnaire. 41 people responded. t

N=42

- 1. Under 65 14 (34%)
- 2. 65 and over 28 (66%)
- 3. Would you be comfortable coming to church the first Sunday in May?
 - a. 26 no (62%)
 - b. 5 depends (12%)
 - c. 11 yes (26%)
- 4. Would you be comfortable coming to church the first Sunday in June?
 - a. 29 yes (68%)
 - b. 11 depends (27%)
 - c. 2 no (5%)
- 5. Would you be willing to wear a mask to church? 100%
- 6. Would you be able to wear a mask to church? 100%

The Congregational Council "met" by e-mail an telephone to suggest the following steps moving forward:

- 1. Worship will resume when stay at home restrictions are lifted for our area.
- 2. Worshippers are expected to wear a mask.
- 3. Hand sanitizer will be abundantly available for use before, during and after worship.
- 4. Holy Communion will either be celebrated using disposable cups or by intinction.
- 5. Offering plates will remain at the back of the church for offerings.
- 6. Passing the Peace will continue to be suspended for the time being.
- 7. Physical distancing will be observed except for family units.

The contents of this article may change over time. Stay tuned.



May Birthdays

1 - Byron Miller

3 - Dennis Styer

5 - Zachary Frantz

5 - Allison Zimmerman

8 - Odel Anderson

9 - Dean Carson

10 - Brad Clubb

10 - Jeff Schreiber

11 - Michele Haefner

15 - Brett Carson

15 - Morgan Haefner

16 - Charlotte Scheid

18 - Bradley Burkholder

18 - Ryan Carson

18 - Michelle Fetter Colon

19 - Joshua Ecenrode

20 - James Wolfe

21 - Charles Ackley

24 - Lamar Wolf

24 - Judy Ecenrode

27 - Michael Fetter

30 - Alicia Scheid





May Wedding Anniversaries

Rodney ♥ Natalie Rhoads-1996 celebrate 24 years on May 5th

Michael ♥ Sue Fetter celebrate 18 years on May 11th

Linda ♥ Robert Nafe celebrate 27 years on May 15th

Odel ♥ Chrystine Anderson celebrate 62 years on May 25th

Scott ♥ Marianna Kopp celebrate 46 years on May 26th

Joseph ♥ Shelby Hoover celebrate 22 years on May 30th

May Anniversaries of Baptism

Andrew Carson – 5/6/79

Roger Kurtz – 5/11/75

Lamar Wolf -5/11/75

Jennifer Wolf Fry -5/11/80

Jessica Wolf -5/11/80

Daniel Volker -5/11/80

Derek Zimmerman -5/11/08

Cameron Zimmerman -5/11/08

Allison Zimmerman -5/11/08

Allison Clubb -5/17/08

Chase Clubb -5/17/15

Timothy Feeg -5/18/80

Amanda Nafe -5/19/94

Amanda Carson -5/19/85

Kim Doutrich -5/21/59

Laura Bowman -5/21/67

Judith Frantz -5/29/89

Rodney Rhoads -5/30/54



A STORY OF HOPE IN THE MIDST OF AN EPIDEMIC - 1949

In the midst of the polio epidemic - a disease that placed tens of thousands of children inside iron lungs, and many thousands more around the country quarantined at home - a young San Diego school teacher named Eleanor Abbott invented Candy Land, one of the most popular board games of all time.

Abbott created the game inside a polio ward, as a patient herself, with the hope of giving the immobilized children around her a momentary sense of freedom and mobility. As a way of further connecting with the kids, Abbott featured on the game board an illustration of a boy with a leg brace. Milton Bradley was quick to buy the game from Abbott. And to this day, Candy Land continues to be popular, more than 65 years after the disease was eradicated. (Story shared by Leslie Miller).



June's Newsletter deadline is **May 15th**.

Please submit articles and information to

Tracy in the church office by email:
jerusaluth@windstream.net or by placing a
note in her office administrator mailbox.



Technology lets you worship at home!

During this COVID-19 emergency, you can maintain your worship and prayer life and still stay safe at home. Churches across our synod are offering opportunities through Facebook, YouTube, Zoom and other tools. Please visit this website to see what is offered: www.lss-elca.org/congregations-offering-virtual-worship/

Mother's Day & Patience and Pruning

In many part of America, Mother's Day is the recommended date for planting flowers outdoors. Subjecting blooms to the elements any sooner is risky, though sunny spring days sure make waiting tough. Perhaps that's why poet May Sarton calls gardening "an instrument of grace," for it slows us down and forces patience.

Courage is also required. Gardeners "must be brave enough to cut back the old and sit with bare branches, awaiting new growth." writes Cheryl Richardson (*Waking Up in Winter*). And we must trust that it will come. When God prunes us, we, too, must trust that new growth and new life are in store....and then patiently wait.







Friends of Luther Acres 2020 Scholarship Campaign

Every year the Friends of Luther Acres sponsors a project to benefit our residents. We have been extremely blessed due to your generous donations to have purchased items or raised funds for many improvement projects. In years past, we raised money for building a memory support gazebo and gardens, purchasing a player piano, iN2L units, and a bicycle for two. This year, because of pandemic circumstances, our support staff at Luther Acres suggested a scholarship fund for our Luthercare for Kids parents who are currently out of work and may struggle to afford childcare once they are able to go back to work. We loved the idea of helping our broader Luthercare community with this campaign, so please join us with your support for this year's 2020 Friends of Luther Acres campaign!

Since we will not be collecting cash donations, contributions can be made in the following ways:

Please make checks payable to **Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church**, with Friends of Luthercare on the memo line. Send your check to the church c/o Janice Styer. Thank you for your support of this worthy cause.

Dear Jerusalem Lutheran Church,

First I would like to thank you for hosting the food giveaway on Saturdays. I would also like to thank the Ministerium - the food drive is an awesome resource for those who are in need at this time.



I am a physical therapist for kids, and I am continuing to see kids and families online. I have found that many families are struggling with not only food but basic supplies for the kids. I was wondering if the Ministerium would also consider providing some basic supplies for kids such as bubbles, markers, paper, kids scissors, a ball, and crayons. I would be happy to help in any way possible. Thanks for considering. Tanya Myers PT,DPT tabsam@ptd.net

A PRAYER FOR MEMORIAL DAY

We remember, O Lord, all those people throughout the years who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country, for liberty, for us. Whenever we breathe the air of freedom or claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship, fill us with gratitude for those who selflessly gave the last full measure of devotion - their very lives - for our benefit.

May these brave women and men now know the joy of eternity and your presence. And may the families of the fallen receive comfort and peace amid their grief. Help us as we minister to their needs. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lititz-Warwick Community Chest Food Bank

May's Food Bank Suggestions:

- Canned fruit
- Rice plain white or brown or flavored
- Cold breakfast cereal

Items can be placed in the drop boxes in the narthex - thank you!

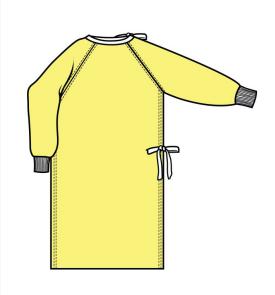
PRIMARY ELECTION DAY June 2, 2020

Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church has been designated as the polling site for Millport District of the Lancaster Board of Elections. The decision was made to suspend a bake sale for this primary election event. However, volunteers would be welcome to be present throughout the day, especially first thing in the morning. Pastor will be present throughout the day, but cannot be there first thing in the morning as she will be voting where she lives before coming to church.

Please call pastor at 484-388-0563, e-mail @ boplinger42@verizon.net if you can spend even an hour at church during this election day.



A Special Request from The Rev. Chaplin Glenn Beard, Jr.



I hope you are all doing well and staying safe during these trying days! I am writing to you to ask if you might share a need with members of your congregations. If your congregation has a sewing group or individuals who like to sew, Luther Acres could use their support. We have a critical need for isolation gowns as we provide care to our residents. If you can share this need and find any volunteers interested in helping us, please give my contact information. Luthercare will provide material for those interested in sewing gowns.

If you are able to sew isolation gowns for Luther Acres, please let Pastor Oplinger know. She will see that you get the pattern, and all the materials you need to make the gowns. Call Pastor Oplinger @ 484-388-0563 for more information or to volunteer.

HOME COMMUNION MEMBERS A call, dropping a card, or a visit...

Willis Beam

411 A East Main Street Leola, PA 17540 (717) 203-4941 Birthday: October 7

Jacob Garman

United Zion Ret. Community 722 Furnace Hills Pike, Room 130 Lititz, PA 17543 Birthday: April 1

Alma Hollingsworth

Room 602, Muhlenberg Lodge 300 St. Mark Drive Lititz, PA 17543 Birthday: September 21

Lillian Logeman

Keystone Villa, Room 321 100 North State Street Ephrata, PA 17522 Landline (717) 738-5821 Cell (717) 888-0371 Birthday: August 31

Norma Rhoads

149 Owl Hill Road Lititz, PA 17543 Birthday: September 24

Reba Weit

400 St. Luke Drive Room 202 Lititz, PA 17543 Birthday: August 10

Evelyn Wissler

321 Meadow Valley Road Lititz, PA 17543 Birthday: April 14

Charles Jr. & Mary Ann Sweigart

918 A Rabbit Hill Road Lititz, PA 17543 (717) 626-0742 Birthdays: Charles's March 6 Mary Ann's March 14



EXPLORING THE CEMETERY

The Spanish Flu (August 2016) by Denise Witwer Lahr

(This is a reprise of an article from August 2016, with some added information)

As a microbiologist married to a physician, I've been interested in looking at the cemetery in terms of mortality and how that has changed over the years. If one looks at early (pre-1906) obituaries, the cause of death is frequently stated to be "complications" or "apoplexy" or "conditions of old age." Given the level of medical sophistication at the time, these diagnoses translate to "we don't know," "stroke or heart attack," or "got old."

By 1906, the state required that a death certificate be issued, and the level of medical knowledge had improved enough to allow some insight into the cause of death. Death certificates from 1906 to 1966 are part of the public record and can be searched for cause of death, which I have done for virtually everyone in the cemetery.

The notorious Spanish Flu of 1918 probably came out of the Midwest, despite its name, but spread rapidly through the military population and in the trenches of World War I. In late September 1918 Pennsylvania authorities were not terribly concerned because the outbreak was limited to the Philadelphia area. Within a week, they declared an emergency because of the wildfire spread of the disease.

In 1918, three young people died of influenza or "broncho-pneumonia" and were buried in the Rothsville cemetery. Carrie Haines was the first to die on October 10. She was the daughter of William and Emma Amelia (Carvell) Mumma and was married to Milton Haines. She was 29 at the time of her death and had just given birth to a stillborn child on Sept. 23. The second, on October 27, was Harry Ravegum, son of Henry and Sarah Ellen (Rathman) Ravegum. He was 26 years old and worked on a farm. He died after just three days of sickness. On December 11, Caleb Spangler died. His obituary is below.

Lititz Record, Thurs., Dec. 19, 1918, p. 4: "Caleb W. Spangler died Wednesday night at his home near Clay of pneumonia, following an attack of influenza. He was twenty-nine years of age and was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Abram Spangler, of near Clay. His wife, Mrs. Beulah Shreiner Spangler, his parents, his parents, and the following brothers and sisters survive: Elsie, wife of Stephen Levan, Rothsville: Verna, wife of Benjamin Weidler, Tenville; Susan, wife of John Miller, near Lititz; Dora, wife of Jay Lupold, Lincoln; John, near Lincoln; Mazie, wife of William Young, Brunnerville: Maud, wife of Jacob Garner. Ephrata, and Lizzie and Katherine, at home. He was a member of the Lutheran church. The funeral was held Monday morning and was private, with interment in the Lutheran cemetery at Rothsville."

The flu continued throughout the winter, but the epidemic was worse in population centers. The next incidence I could identify was Emma Hess, daughter of Christian and Lizzie Messner and wife of Abraham Hess, who got influenza on top of other conditions. The last was Dorothy Leed, daughter of Sherman and Lillian Levering Leed, 6 months old, who died of pneumonia. By the summer of 1919, the epidemic was over.

Today we think of flu as hitting the elderly first. But this flu was different because it seemed to strike young people hard, and pregnant women

even harder. Modern scientific techniques have led to a possible

ABRAHAM W. HESS BYL — BYL EMMA.HIS WITZ BYA — BHE

explanation for this phenomenon. It appears that a less virulent, but related, form of the virus circulated in the late $19^{\rm th}$ century. As a result, many older people had some immunity to the virus due to earlier exposure.

I recently looked again at the Dec. 19, 1918, issue of the Lititz Record in which I found the obituary for Caleb Spangler and found some other interesting flu-related items.

There were several deaths due to pneumonia or influenza. Page 1 included a brief note that "Rev. F. A. Weicksel is confined to the house with influenza and was unable to hold services last Sunday. He is showing improvement."

The paper listed numerous Christmas observances to be held in the following weeks, a fried chicken dinner, Christmas sales, news from Europe after the Armistice, and so forth. In other words, life went on as usual.

Perhaps the best little article was entitled "Spanish Influenza – Do Not Fear When Fighting A German or a Germ," by Dr. M. Cook. It read as follows:

"The cool fighter always wins and so there is no need to become panic-stricken. Avoid fear and crowds. Exercise in the fresh air and practice the three C's: A Clean Mouth, A Clean Skin and Clean Bowels. To carry off the poisons that accumulate within the body and to ward off an attack of the influenza bacillus, take a good liver regulator to move the bowels. Such a one is made up of May-apple, leaves of aloe, root of jalap, and is to be had at any drug store, and called 'Pleasant Purgative Pellets.'

If a bad cold develops, go to bed, wrap up well, drink freely of hot lemonade and take a hot-mustard foot bath. Have the bedroom warm but well ventilated. Obtain at the nearest drug store, 'Anuric Tablets' to flush the kidneys and control the pains and aches. Take an Anuric Tablet every two hours, together with copious drinks of lemonade. If a true case of influenza, the food should be simple, such as broths, milk, buttermilk, and ice cream; but it is important that food be given regularly in order to keep up patient's strength and vitality. After the acute attack has passed, which is generally three to seven days, the system should be built up by the use of a good iron tonic, such as 'Irontic' tablets, to be obtained at some drug stores, or that well-known blood-maker and herbal tonic made from roots and barks of forest trees – sold everywhere as Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery."

With this type of advice, no wonder the Spanish Flu came and went for more than two years.

March 16, 2020

Dear Pastor Bonnie,

We have received your generous gifts of hand knitted hats and scarves and we are so grateful. Thank you for sharing this labor of love with our seafarers who will not only be warmed physically with your gifts, but spiritually as well, knowing that the unconditional love of God through Jesus is coming to them from Lutherans they don't even know. The seafarers so appreciate knowing that people like you are praying for them and concretely remembering them with "God's work, Your Hands." Last year we served almost 2,000 seafarers in the ports of New York/New Jersey, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and southern Connecticut. With your help, we can continue to welcome the foreigner and show hospitality to the stranger (Hebrews 13:1-3) in such a cozy and loving way with your hand-knitted gifts. God blesses us with your good work.

Peace.

Pastor Marsh Luther Drege



(That was a printed letter.) Then Pastor Marsh Drege wrote this hand written note, because I had asked him how SIH was managing during this pandemic. This was his reply to my question:

We covet your prayers for our dire virus-related situation here. We have had to temporarily close our guesthouse to all outside guests while managing the risk of continuing to house our stranded seafarers and asylees. We have had to lay off 3/4 of our staff-including 3 of our port Chaplains. We still have 3 port Chaplains who are able to do "gang-way ministry" - handing up supplies (like hand-knitted hats and scarves) to isolating seafarers.

Prayers go to you and yours for stable health during this difficult time. God bless.





Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church

36 Church Street, Rothsville (Lititz), Pennsylvania 17543

717.626.8972 | www.jerusaluth.org | jerusaluth@windstream.net Pastor's email: jerusaluthpastor@windstream.net

Office hours: Wednesday - Friday 10am - 3pm

The Reverend Bonnie M. Oplinger, Pastor Mr. Roger L. Kurtz, Director of Music Tracy H. Lagaza, Office Administrator Joan C. Dull, Sexton Congregation, Ministers