

# Alleluia!

*Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed.  
Alleluia!*



by Pastor Blake

The message of Easter is the most powerful message ever shared! God declares that nothing, not even death, can separate us from God's love in Jesus. What a joy it was to celebrate Easter this year with two in-person worship services, after not worshiping face-to-face since March, 2020. The serene sunrise worship in the church parking lot and a large gathering later in the morning at Rennebohm Park were deeply meaningful. Hundreds of people also participated in our online Easter worship, accentuated with special music from our gifted musicians.

This is a time of transition as we move to safely return to some in-person connections while continuing to offer online ways to participate in our ministry.

## New Worship Schedule for May

Intensified planning through the Re-entry Task Force, which held a listening session with the congregation on March 28, has occurred. Plans have been made for a major change to our worship schedule beginning on Sunday, May 16. Please read carefully all the details on the next page of this newsletter. In short, beginning on May 16 we will offer three different worship opportunities each Sunday: in our sanctuary at 8am, online livestream worship at 9:15am (note the new time), and outdoor worship at 10:30am either at Westmorland Park (on May 16) or in the church parking lot (each Sunday after May 16).

As we have learned with just about everything this last year, our plans may have to change. Our goal is to live out our mission of praising, living and sharing God's love and to do so in safe and meaningful ways. We have learned a lot about what is safe and what is possible through information from public health officials, health care professionals and other churches. Thank you for your prayers, faith and support throughout this time. Our ministry is vital and we have been able to be a vibrant witness to God's love for all people even in these challenging times. As we move into the future with hope, we continue to celebrate the promise of new life that comes to us in the risen Christ. Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

# PRAISE

## New Worship Schedule and Important Information for May

### May 2 and May 9

- 9:00am online Facebook Live worship

### May 16

- 8:00am in-person worship in the sanctuary (pre-registration required)
- 9:15am online Facebook Live worship **Note new time!**
- 10:30am in-person outdoor worship at Westmorland Park (pre-registration required)

### May 23 and May 30 (and following Sundays)

- 8:00am in-person worship in the sanctuary (pre-registration required)
- 9:15am online Facebook Live worship
- 10:30am in-person worship in the church parking lot (pre-registration required)

## Online Worship

Online Facebook Live worship will continue as in previous months, with one change. The time will move from 9:00am to 9:15am on May 16. You can access the livestream or the recorded worship video from our webpage, [midvalelutheran.org](http://midvalelutheran.org) where a viewable and downloadable order of worship will also be available. Holy communion will be celebrated during the livestream worship on the second and fourth Sundays, May 9 and May 23. Holy communion kits for use at home are available for pick up at church on the Wednesday prior from 11:00am - 12:00pm or by contacting the office.

## 8:00am Worship in the Sanctuary

In order to facilitate COVID-19 safety measures, there will be a limited number of participants. Please register by 12:00pm the Friday prior to worship using the link on the website or in The Moments weekly email, or by contacting the church office.

Helpful information and procedures for the 8:00am worship in the sanctuary:

1. If anyone in your family group is ill or has been in close contact with another person who has tested positive for COVID-19, please refrain from entering the

church building for 10 days. A family group is defined as persons within the same social bubble and/or co-habiting in the same household.

2. Each family group should register before attending in-person worship. Sign up will be first come-first serve. Those who sign up but are not able to attend due to space limitations will have priority for worship attendance the next Sunday.

3. Worship attendees must wear a face mask at all times while in the parking lot or inside the church building. Extra masks will be available at church.

4. Maintain physical distancing of 6 feet as much as possible from those outside your family group.

5. No food or beverages should be brought into the church, if possible. Coffee and shared treats will not be offered. Drinking fountains are not able to be used. You may bring your water bottle.

6. Arrive 10 to 25 minutes before service starts. Entrance will only be available through the main entry door in the parking lot. Upon arrival there will be cones indicating where to wait in your family group for an usher to bring you into the building and direct you to your seat, in order to help maintain physical distancing.

7. Printed order of worship bulletins will be available on a table in the Gathering Space. The order of worship also can be printed at home and brought to worship or can be viewed on a personal mobile device.

8. During the worship service, prayers and responses shall be spoken softly with face masks on. Singing shall be limited to humming or very softly singing to yourself while wearing face masks.

9. Offerings can be given in baskets at the exit doors as people leave. Offerings can also be given by mail or online.

10. At this time, holy communion will not be offered during in-person worship.

11. Only one family group is allowed in a restroom at one time.

12. At the conclusion of the worship, family groups will be ushered out one at a time to allow for physical distancing. Please wait in your pew until an usher signals that it is your turn to leave. When leaving, please move directly outside. If meeting other families in the parking lot, please maintain physical distancing.

## 10:30am Outdoor Worship

Helpful information and procedures for outdoor worship:

1. If anyone in your family group is ill or has been in close contact with another person who has tested positive for COVID-19, please refrain from attending in-person worship for 10 days. A family group is defined as persons within the same social bubble and/or co-habituating in the same household.
2. Each family group should register by 12:00pm the Friday before worship.
3. Face masks will be required. Extra masks will be available.
4. Maintain physical distancing of 6 feet as much as possible from those outside your family group.
5. Only on-street parking will be available at both the church and at the city park site. At church, the parking lot will be used for seating, with each family group occupying a parking space. There will be space in the lot available for those needing disabled parking.
6. Bring your own chairs or blankets for seating. A limited number of picnic tables will be available for seating at the city park worship site.
7. Restrooms will be available. Only one family group at a time is allowed in a restroom.
8. Dress prepared for the weather. In the case of severe weather or heavy rain, outdoor worship may be cancelled.
9. Printed order of worship bulletins will be available for pick up on a table. The order of worship also can be printed at home and brought to worship or can be viewed on a personal mobile device.
10. During worship, attendees may participate in responsive speaking, prayers and singing while wearing masks.
11. A basket for receiving offerings will be available or donations can be made online or by mail.
12. At this time, holy communion will not be offered during in-person worship.

The complete guidelines for in-person worship as developed by the Re-entry Task Force are available by request from the church office.

*prayer chain*

*If you have a prayer request, please call  
Mary Lou Leslie, 849-6450.*

## May 23 - The Day of Pentecost

Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Crossing all boundaries that would separate us, the Spirit brings the wideness of God's mercy to places we least expect it—to a crowd of strangers of different lands and tongues, to dry bones, to our weak hearts. Jesus promises his disciples that they will be accompanied by the Holy Spirit, and that this Spirit reveals the truth. We celebrate that we too have been visited with this same Spirit. Guided by the truth, we join together in worship, and then are sent to share the fullness of Christ's love with the world.

## May 30 - Holy Trinity Sunday

Though the word "trinity" is not found in the scriptures, this understanding of God reflects the Bible's revelation of who God is. More than a doctrine, the Trinity expresses the heart of our faith: we have experienced the God of creation made known in Jesus Christ and with us always through the Holy Spirit.

### Prospective and New Member Session May 16, 11:15am Westmorland Park

Anyone interested in learning more about our congregation's ministry or who has interest in becoming a member is invited to attend this informal information session with the pastors. It will be held at the Westmorland Park shelter at 11:15am following our 10:30am outdoor worship in the park. Please RSVP by contacting the church office [info@midvalelutheran.org](mailto:info@midvalelutheran.org) or 608-238-7119.

### Happy Anniversary!

Don and Ann Tofte celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on April 14th. Jerry and Ruth Apps will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on May 20, and Wayne and Sandy Stallings will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on May 29. Congratulations!

# LIVE

MIDVALE COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH IS A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS IN JESUS CHRIST, CALLED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT TO PRAISE, LIVE AND SHARE GOD'S LOVE.

## Adult Forum Sundays at 10:30am Fellowship Time 10:15am

All Adult Forums will be held by Zoom. You can participate with video and audio using a computer, mobile device or with audio only using a landline phone. You must sign up for each session in advance by emailing [info@midvalelutheran.org](mailto:info@midvalelutheran.org) or by calling the church office at 608-238-7119 by noon on the Friday prior to the scheduled forum. All who sign-up will receive the Zoom connection information. Please include the date and/or title of the forum in your message when you sign up.

### May 2 – Building Remodeling Update: Learn about potential modifications to building with Education Wing Task Force chair Jen Davel and committee members

Prior to COVID-19, there was considerable effort to review the existing structure and the needs of the building, especially the Education Wing. This forum will provide an update on what has happened, as well as the next steps to address the shortcomings that were identified and ways to address future needs.

### May 9 – Mother's Day - No Forum

### May 16 – Outdoor Worship is scheduled - No Forum

### May 23 – Betsy Koepke – Relationship Building

Betsy Koepke, Educational Psychologist and Keynote Speaker, will share her "3 Thoughts to Thrive" to give our mental and emotional wellness a boost as we recover and heal from an extremely challenging year.

Betsy is a wife, mother of two, psychologist, and ambitious entrepreneur committed to supporting those who desire to live a life filled with purpose and passion. Through her keynote talks, online courses, retreats, and individual & group coaching, Betsy is here to inspire and empower us to rise up and live our full potential. Betsy is a former school psychologist and created her own consulting firm that focuses on relationship building.

### Summer Offerings

Traditionally (if such a word can still be used) Adult Forum were scheduled to follow the school year and not presented in the summer. However, if someone has a specific interest and speakers in mind please let us know and we will make the appropriate arrangements. Just email the office with the subject line Summer Forum and it will be forwarded to the Adult Education Committee. In addition, Pastor Ken has continued his work organizing Adult Summer Sessions and this year promises to have several exciting and thought provoking sessions we invite you to consider/sign up for those events.

## Additional Coffeess Fellowship Dates

Coffeess Fellowship will continue through mid-June, the beginning of Adult Bible School. If you would like to be part of a coffeess fellowship and do not have a computer or smart phone, you can connect with the conversation using a regular phone. Register by sending an email to Pastor Ken at [kens@midvalelutheran.org](mailto:kens@midvalelutheran.org) with the dates you plan to attend. He will send you the meeting id and the password for each meeting by email.

- Tuesday, May 4, 6:30 pm
- Wednesday, May 5, 10:00 am
- Tuesday, May 11, 6:30 pm
- Wednesday, May 12, 10:00 am
- Tuesday, May 18, 6:30 pm
- Wednesday, May 19, 10:00 am
- Tuesday, May 25, 6:30 pm
- Wednesday, May 26, 10:00 am



## Interim Custodian Estela Gomez

The church expresses its gratitude to Estela Gomez who has served as our interim custodian. Estela added cleaning our church to her other jobs cleaning for UW Health and cleaning homes. She has kept the building in spotless condition and maintained high standards for sanitization in line with guidelines for COVID-19 safety. Thank you Estela!

Our previous custodian, Maimouna Ziegler, celebrated the birth of her second daughter. She and her family are now moving to Minnesota. Just as this newsletter is going to print, the Personnel Committee is able to announce that we have filled the custodian vacancy by combining some duties into a new position called facilities manager. We welcome Jay Wians, a longtime member of the congregation, onto the staff in this role. Look for a more extensive welcome for Jay in next month's newsletter.

## Adult Bible School 2021

Adult Bible School 2021 is back this summer here at Midvale Community Lutheran Church. The theme for the summer is Life in God's Garden. We will focus on our world, environment, creation, the presence of the spirit in nature, ecological challenges, and hope. God's Garden has experienced a global pandemic this year, and we will reflect on our experiences in light of our faith.

The program is developed by the Adult Learning Committee and is coordinated by Pastor Ken. It's made possible by a grant from Midvale's endowment foundation to support the off-site opportunities. ABS2021 engages several rostered pastors and deacons affiliated with Midvale in this year's summer opportunities, as volunteer instructors. And in August, a session on this year's theme by our current pastors, Blake and Katie.

Because of COVID-19, we've moved the start to late June and will continue some events into the fall. Currently, we are planning these sessions to be either online or on site experiences. Whenever it is safe to do so, we will return to the church for sessions.

Three off-site experiences are planned for late summer and fall. Look for more information and how to register in June.



## Save the Date: June 6 at 7pm

Feeling hopeless or frustrated about what's happening at the border? Wondering how refugee policies have changed since the election? Looking for a way to help? Join the Immigration Action Team's Immigration Heritage Month kickoff event and learning session. Experts Erin Barbato (director of the UW Law School Immigrant Justice Clinic) and Aissa Olivarez (managing attorney at Community Immigration Law Center) will bring us up to speed and show us how we can help by raising money to cover the cost of legal fees for two Wisconsin asylum seekers.

Let's walk with our immigrant neighbors on their journey -- we'll take the first step together.

Watch the weekly Moments in May for information on how to register for a Zoom link.

## 2021 High School Seniors



### Anne Sophie Brilla

High School Attended: James Madison Memorial High School

School You Will Attend After Graduation: Undecided

Intended Major: History & Psychology double major

Interests and hobbies: Some of my favorite activities are creative writing and hiking, and

I love creating all types of music.



### Kobey Frey

High School Attended: James Madison Memorial High School

School You Will Attend After Graduation: UW-Madison

Intended Major: Computer Engineering

Interests and hobbies: Robotics, video games



### Fletcher McGrath

High School Attended: Madison West High School

School You Will Attend After Graduation: The University of Dubuque

Intended Major: Flight Operations

Interests and hobbies: I enjoy hanging out with my friends and visiting with my family.



### Josh Porter

High School Attended: Madison East High School

School You Will Attend After Graduation: UW-Madison

Intended Major: Computer Science

Interests and hobbies: I like teaching martial arts, skateboarding, and playing video games.

# SHARE



## Natalie Schick

High School Attended: Madison West High School

School You Will Attend After Graduation: Rutgers University

Intended Major (if known): I am looking to go into cognitive science

Interests and hobbies: I love to swim!



## Olivia Zerger

High School Attended: Madison West High School

School You Will Attend After Graduation: undecided

Intended Major (if known): Biology

Interests and hobbies: Tennis, listening to music, volunteering



## Esther Svaren

High School Attended: Madison West High School

School You Will Attend After Graduation: UW Milwaukee

Intended Major (if known): Art Education

Interests and hobbies: Cooking, being around friends and family, taking walks, making art



## Christa Paskey

High School Attended: Waunakee Community High School and DC Everest Senior High School

School You Will Attend After Graduation: University of Wisconsin-Madison or Concordia University Wisconsin

Intended Major (if known): Pharmacy

Interests and hobbies: I am currently a senior at DC Everest Senior High School, where I enjoy my mathematics and science courses as well as healthcare related electives. Outside of school, I work as a pharmacy technician at Aspirus Hospital and participate in enlightening community service activities. Beyond school, work, and volunteering, I enjoy traveling, reading, hiking, baking, organizing, as well as spending time with my parents, older brother, and shetland sheepdog.

## May Baptism Birthdays



***Congratulations to our young people and their families as they celebrate the day on which God said to them, "I love you. You are mine!"***

5/1	† Isabelle Akim	5/20	† Wyatt Hill
5/3	† Luke Field	5/21	† Claire Anderson
5/8	† Ruby Lindsley	5/22	† Kajsa Rosenkvist
5/9	† Jacob Brunner	5/23	† Lucas Porcaro
5/12	† Gus Lindsley	5/26	† Louisa Massnick
5/12	† Eli Minko	5/27	† Emily Brunner
5/13	† Stella Hanson	5/27	† Ruby Linder
5/13	† Arthur Waldron	5/29	† Jack Snell
5/14	† Henry Wians	5/30	† Eli Miller
5/19	† Ty Bierke		

## Memorials

**Donna Marie Marx**  
Bob and Beverly Zimmerman  
Darryl Marx

**Lois Jarvis**  
John and Carolyn Cain  
Dave and Rhoda Braunschweig

## Midvale Community Lutheran Church

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**Outdoor Easter Worship Services**

Photos by Gene Nelson (parking lot) and Benjamin Palmer (Rennebohm)

