



## HAPPENINGS at the PALMS

### Returning to Indoor Worship

We return at a time when COVID-19 infections are increasing nationwide, so we must continue to maintain strict safety guidelines for the foreseeable future. If you plan on joining us indoors, please take a moment to review the following information:

- **Everyone who attends must RSVP by Thursday each week.** You may call the church office and leave a message or email the office (lcopoffice@gmail.com). We have limited seats due to distancing, so need to know how many from your household will be attending.
- **Please use the double stained glass doors by the fellowship hall only** to enter the Sanctuary unless you have mobility issues. Do not enter before 9:50 a.m.
- **Masks are required at all times.** Masks must fully cover your nose and mouth (with no vents). If you forget your mask, we will have some available to you as you enter the building.
- At the entrance, we will have a station with hand sanitizer, bulletins and communion elements. Offering plates will be placed near the doors for your convenience.
- **Please sit in designated pews and spots,** maintaining at least six feet (three chairs) from anyone not in your household. An usher can help if you need assistance finding a spot.
- Following the service, **you will be directed how to exit the sanctuary** to avoid bottlenecking at the door.
- **The fellowship hall will be closed on Sundays,** but there are plenty of sidewalks if you'd like to visit outside.
- **We love you, but if you are feeling at all sick (especially fever, cough, or sneezing), please worship from home that day.** If you test positive after attending church in-person, please let us know so that we take measures for contact tracing.

## HAPPENINGS at the PALMS



Dear Church,

In my house we call the month of May the “December of the Spring.” In school, May usually has all. of. the. Things. As classes wrap up there are recitals and art shows, concerts and testing. There are spring sports, Girl Scout bridging, there is registration for summer camp, decisions about travel plans. There are a lot of things on the calendar, fun things, but packed full weekends that feel like it’s always something. It feels a lot like the lead up to Christmas, it feels a lot like the December of the Spring.

This year, for the second year, we get a blessed Sabbath from that.

While we wish that the recitals could be in person, that my girls could attend birthday parties and play soccer, we continue in a pandemic and so we are considering a quieter May as a blessing and a sabbath.

The sabbath is Biblical, it is, in fact, spiritual.

We see it in Exodus 20: 8-11 when we learn of what God calls us to do in the commandments. Jesus works on the cultural sabbath sometimes (Luke 6:1-2; Mark 2: 24-2; John 5: 1-18; Mark 3: 1-6 as some examples). But Jesus also left the crowd and the work to go off and pray by himself-taking his own sabbath time then (Matthew 14: 23; Mark 6:46; Luke 6:12; Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16; Matthew 26:36; Mark 14:25 as only some examples). Jesus did it often, maybe we don’t do it enough.

As a Pastor, the long considered Sunday sabbath does not work for me. And Sunday may not be a day of rest for you either. For this, I suggest picking another day or time that can be used as your sabbath. I take my sabbath on Friday. On that day I try my \*hardest\* to not check email, to not take any phone calls unless it is an emergency. I spend my sabbath day with God. I spend time in prayer, reading, hiking, cooking or some other way that relaxes me. I spend my evening with my family, having homemade pizza and we watch a movie together.

I recently heard wise words that if you work everyday with your body, sabbath with your mind. If you work with your mind, sabbath with your body. This is why I try to take a walk or bike on my sabbath, resting my mind and working my body feels good. It is a time set aside to focus just a little bit differently.

How can you practice the art of sabbath this month?

Blessings on the journey,  
Pastor Kelly

*\*Due to Covid restrictions, Pastor Kelly is available by appointment:*

Email: revkellypensinger@gmail.com and my cell phone number 727-210-5527

*Lutheran Church of the Palms – May 2021 Newsletter - Page 2 of 11*

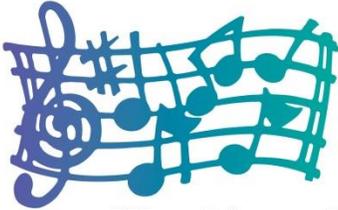
# Worship

## LIVESTREAM

Join Our Church Online  
[www.lutheranchurchofthepalms.org](http://www.lutheranchurchofthepalms.org)  
**Live** Sundays at 10:00am on **YouTube**  
(Or watch on Facebook later on Sunday)

Drive through Communion on the second Sunday of the month  
from 11:00 to 11:30 a.m.

*Lutheran Church of the Palms ~ 727-784-4119*



From the **Worship and  
Music Committee**

For over a year we have been lamenting our inability to worship face-to-face in our sanctuary with organ, singing and liturgy. We wanted a chance to share peace hugs (as fun as horn honking was). Well, that time is partially coming on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

A “foretaste” of that face-to-face sharing was tasted on April 12th at our first Music and Worship meeting in about 18 months. We met with Pastor Kelly in the parking lot and discussed many of the issues we will face as we begin in-person worship. What a joy it was to peacefully share ideas to insure a SAFE experience.

You will be receiving complete information from the office via a letter and e-blasts in addition to this early newsletter edition. My purpose is just to emphasize that worship still won't be what we are used to but this IS a first step.

Re. music, (and super thanks to Linda and our mini choir for keeping a song in our hearts!), we need to be honest in acknowledging that singing is one of the worst virus spreaders. Thus, while we will be singing, it will always be with masks and in “lullabye” voices. We will sing one verse of the Hymn of the Day and a closing hymn. The masked choir will sing parts of the liturgy that we have so missed. The Bells will also periodically resume ding-a-linging.

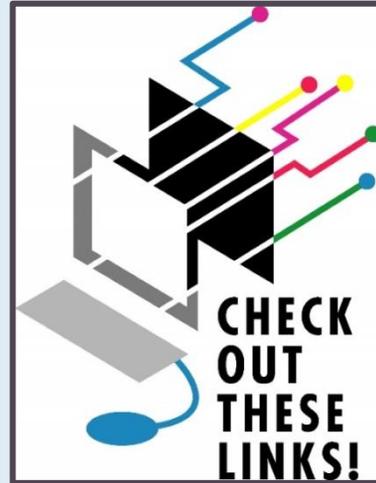
What we have also been starved for is a weekly celebration of Holy Communion. However, for a while this will be different also. Upon entering through the main doors across from the fellowship hall you will receive, in addition to a bulletin, a wafer wrapped in a tissue. To avoid moving around and lack of distance, temporarily we will eat the bread in our seats. We are reverting to this ancient practice of receiving only the bread as it doesn't require anyone to remove their mask to eat it. In vestments, Pastor will consecrate at the altar with a deacon assisting.

You will also see lay readers reading the first two lessons. They will also lead us in a responsive reading of the psalm.

We're getting there brothers and sisters! Just remember what our mamas said: “Patience is a virtue.” In the meantime, we thank Pastor Kelly for her innovative, thoughtful ways of dealing with this highly disruptive period. We are a family. We have weathered, hopefully, the worst of this pandemic and pray for even more health and healing in our nation and our world.

Join us for Worship on **Facebook** or **YouTube** every Sunday!

Visit our Webpages for our  
Church and Preschool:  
[www.lutheranchurchofthepalms.org](http://www.lutheranchurchofthepalms.org)  
and  
[www.palmharborpreschool.com](http://www.palmharborpreschool.com)



Your items for the Month of JUNE NEWSLETTER are due by  
Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup>

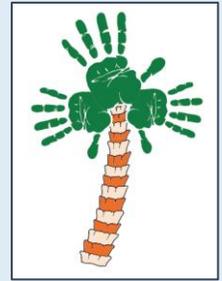
*Please email your articles / announcements to the church email address:  
[LCOPoffice@gmail.com](mailto:LCOPoffice@gmail.com)*

 Special dates in May:

- ❖ Mother's Day – May 9<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ Pentecost Sunday – May 23<sup>rd</sup>
- ❖ Trinity Sunday – May 30<sup>th</sup>

## Barlow Little Palms Preschool

Our preschool accepts children from 2 - 5 years old.  
VPK is free from 8:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.



Contact us at 727-784-9700

or

Email: [barloweducation@yahoo.com](mailto:barloweducation@yahoo.com)



## Finance Committee

The Finance Committee and Church Council would like to thank our congregation for their continued support of our beloved Lutheran Church of the Palms and its ministries with their generous offerings. We have found ourselves worshipping in a different fashion than we are accustomed to but our financial situation continues to be healthy. Your benevolence is much appreciated! We look forward to meeting again as the LCOP family on Sunday mornings in our church building!

## Thrivent

If you are applying for a Thrivent gift card, we ask that you please get the maximum numbers of tshirts (I think 25) in various children and adult sizes. We give these away at the Giveaway Day and we have none for next year (2022).



Prayer Partners is a group of just that...people who pray together. Thank you, all Partners, for your concern and your **OUTSTANDING** willingness to be there for all who need you. Thank you for your love and devotion to living up to Jesus' bidding that we love one another. To become a prayer partner, please email Joan Holmes at: [secondmptiture@live.com](mailto:secondmptiture@live.com)



## Sewing Group News

After a year of not being able to gather in the sewing room to assemble quilts, April has been a real blessing. Masked (if not vaccinated) and distanced as possible, we are back to work and creating new quilts for those in need.

We welcome ALL who are interested in any kind of service, even if you say you don't sew, we have things you can do to join the chatter and laughter of the group. Tying the quilts becomes very easy after a few ties, and the joy of seeing a finished quilt is huge.

We meet every Saturday, 9:30 – 12 noon. When the campus buildings are officially open, we will go back to meeting on Tuesdays.

See you soon!

*"You will be my witnesses ...*



*to the ends of the earth."*

*Acts 1:8, NRSV*



## Social Ministry

May is our month to concentrate on food for **FEAST**. FEAST is in great need for donations. In the past, the Post Office has used May as their month to **STAMP OUT HUNGER**. This year that program has been postponed and the **45,000 lbs.** of food FEAST usually received will not be available. This just shows the great need that FEAST has. Due to the continuing effects of Covid 19, the numbers of families needing their services has increased, **THEY NEED OUR HELP.**

FEAST is holding a special drive on Saturday May 15<sup>th</sup>, 12 - 4 pm. If you are unable to get your donations to them at that time, bring your food donations on Sundays, the tub for collection will be outside the fellowship hall doors each Sunday. You can drop it there on you way into church. They accept all dry foods, toiletries and paper goods.

**Sharing our abundance is our way to do God's work!**



**FEAST**

**FOOD PANTRY**

www.feastfoodpantry.com

# FOOD & FUNDS DRIVE

*It's as Easy as*

**1.**

**Drive  
Up.**

The Letter Carriers' STAMP OUT HUNGER food drive has been postponed this year because of the pandemic. As a result, our community pantry will miss out on over 45,000 pounds of food, which helps to sustain our clients throughout the summer months.

**2.**

**Drop  
Off**

To make up for this substantial loss, please donate FOOD or FUNDS to help support our clients. It's as easy as 1, 2, 3!

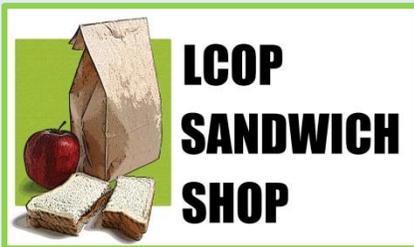
**3.**

**Impact  
Lives.**



**SATURDAY, MAY 15  
12 - 4 P.M.**

**2255 Nebraska Ave, Palm Harbor, FL 34683  
(727)789-5275**



### Directions for Living

We are continuing to make lunch bags for Directions. The 80 bags every other week have been funded by individual money donations as well as Thrivent Cards.

These lunch bags go to their Street Outreach Program and are delivered to the homeless. In the past year, there have been as many as 4,000 children in Pinellas County whom the schools have identified as homeless.

DFL tries to put as many of the families up in hotels as they can, then work with them to help them become independent. The cost of housing and limited employment are factors in all of this.

Once we are able to have unlimited folks attend worship and the campus buildings are all open, we would like to invite Directions for Living to an informational gathering so congregants can see and hear more about the organization and how we work with them.

### Rez House

This year is the first year that Rez House has opened their preschool, **East Pasco Academy at Tommytown**. Check it out on Facebook for pictures. It is thriving and doing very well, despite many complications met and overcome. One of the needs expressed is paper supplies for the school as well as snack items for the children.

Social Ministry is having a one day drive for this purpose, on June 13<sup>th</sup>. Watch for the June newsletter for more information!!!

# HAPPENINGS at the PALMS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>May 2021</i>						1
2 10am Worship in Church or Worship Online	3	4	5	6	7 <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	8
9 <i>Mother's Day</i> 10am Worship in Church Or Worship Online ✚ Drive-Through Communion Today 11-11:30 a.m.	10	11 5:30pm Finance Committee	12	13	14 <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	15
16 10am Worship in Church or Worship Online	17	18 6pm Council Meeting	19	20	21 <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>  <u>June 2021</u> Newsletter items are due today	22
23  10am Worship in Church or Worship Online	24	25	26	27	28 <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	29
30 <i>Trinity</i> SUNDAY 10am Worship in Church or Worship Online	31  Memorial Day ★ Day ★  Office Closed	<b>Worship in our Church Building begins again on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mask and social distancing required.</b>				



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Lutheran Church of the Palms  
2250 Nebraska Avenue  
Palm Harbor, FL 34683  
727-784-4119

 **Worship Services:**  
**Virtual or Drive In Church available.**  
**Click on the Church website to access virtual worship:**  
[www.lutheranchurchofthepalms.org](http://www.lutheranchurchofthepalms.org)