

# Prints of Peace

A publication of Peace Lutheran Church 64801



(None)



(None)



16<sup>th</sup> LaVonda Osen  
22<sup>nd</sup> Jane Bishop  
28<sup>th</sup> Mitch Byrd  
31<sup>st</sup> Luke Moyer



(None)

## So...What's Next?

It is hard to believe we have been 'outside' the church building for nearly six months! How much longer? In Pastor Rich's Sunday devotional he talked about the Holy Spirit giving us patience. The Gospel readings from Matthew during these last few weeks have been reminding us that 'being' the church does not require a building. But, yes, it is missed.

We want to share with you the data gathering and processing the Church Council via the Executive Committee goes through to determine when the church building can safely open. As you may remember, we created and adopted a plan at the encouragement of the Synod and the Churchwide Office. The ELCA is taking the safety of God's people seriously. That is difficult when our regional area has so many different denominations and churches. "If they can, why can't we?" The data collected by Pastor Rich is reviewed every two weeks. We have included his most recent report inside this newsletter. Please take a look.

As you can see, the number of cases has been increasing. We are looking at trying something new in a couple of weeks. Most of our sister churches are providing a virtual or streaming service. Those who have opened their doors have found that many do not come, so they are still sending the service out virtually. We are exploring the use of ZOOM. ZOOM would allow us all to see each other on a computer screen. If we think it will work, we will send out instructions, and a date and time. We will be discussing it at our September Church Council ZOOM meeting on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Meanwhile we will still be emailing Pastor Rich's weekly devotions.

When we finally worship together, please remember it will be different, just like all our other daily outings have changed. To start, we will ask everyone to wear a mask, we will not sing, we will not use paper or the hymnals. There will not be communion or fellowship. We know this sounds drastic, but it is our love of neighbor that keeps us cautious and everyone safe.

God's blessings to all,

Patty Heagel, President

# Prints of Peace

## ***From Pastor Rich's September 6<sup>th</sup> Devotions:***

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Today we are called to community. Jesus says, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them" (Matt. 18:20). In these Sundays after Pentecost, we are repeatedly reminded that God has not abandoned us and that Christ's resurrection and ascension are a beginning for us, not an end.

In this time of pandemic, as impatience and frustrations grow each day, the questions that follows are, "How do we be community right now? How are we gathered when we can't gather?"

The readings this week focus on the practical work of the gathered Christian community: turning from sin to repentance, from conflict to reconciliation. These are things we can do even without being physically gathered at 3100 North Saint Louis Avenue in Joplin. Indeed, these are things perhaps best achieved outside that building – like we are now. Certainly, they are things in which God is with us no matter where and how we connect with this world.

Maybe it helps to remembers this: When the church does gather as God's assembly, we do not gather as a social club, drawn and kept together only by shared demographics and interests. We are more than like-minded individuals living in the same neighborhood or sharing a similar age or background or status. If church is only a social club, then there is no reason to continue to gather when conflict arises, when uncomfortable issues are raised, or when "the way it's always been" begins to change. If church is only a social club, there is no reason to journey with God through the wilderness and do the hard work of reconciliation and forgiveness and being led to new life.

God calls us into community knowing that being in community is hard. And, in these days right now, it's especially hard. Your church council, the synod council, and the bishop recognize and struggle themselves with that each week and each day. If you are feeling challenged in this time, know that you are not alone!

Scripture brings us practical guidance for gathering through good and hard times. The Holy Spirit is always at work—in, through, and among us—to gather and regather us anew. Right now, that same Spirit is with and within you. Listen for the patience the Spirit is bringing to you. Anticipate the community that God is even now creating anew. Hold fast to the call to love your neighbor. Let these words of worship and liturgy that we share right now be our connection. Through God's Word, we are always two and three and more. We are never alone. We are God's gathered children.

## **Pastor Rich's COVID report from September 4<sup>th</sup>:**



As anticipated, the COVID-19 news for our region continues to worsen. With todays reported numbers (excluding City of Joplin, which gets reported the following morning), we are seeing new records for risk scores in several key counties: Jasper, Ottawa, Cherokee, and Crawford.

Joplin, separately from Jasper County, is also setting a new record of risk each day. Crawford County, home to Pittsburgh State, is currently at the top of the risk levels as more than 100 students are isolated, another 600 are quarantined (as of Wednesday), and all students are being strongly encouraged to stay in place over the holiday weekend and not travel home. Current numbers indicate that Joplin may be only about 5 days behind Pittsburgh in reaching similar levels of risk. Let us pray that the trending pattern breaks before that happens because these are not just numbers — there is a real person, a child of God, associated with each and every count and a life being impacted (both now and into the future) in ways that we can only imagine.

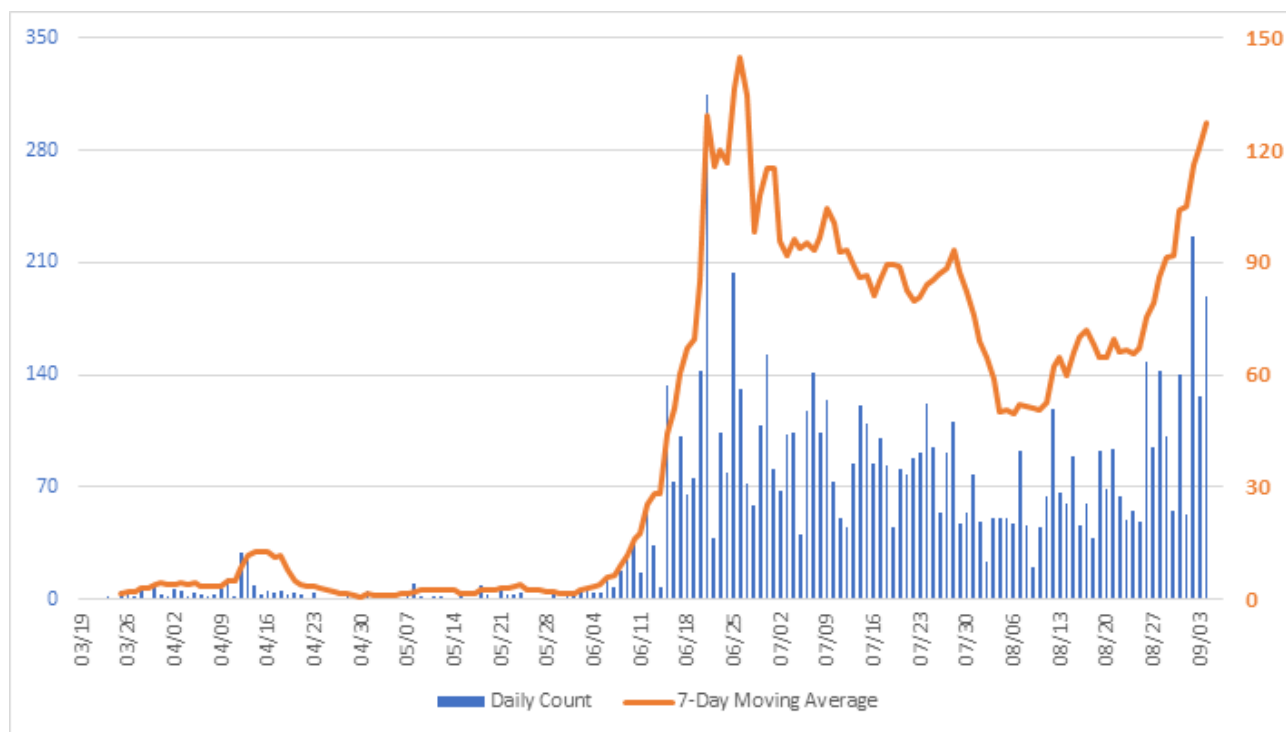
Here is the table of daily risk scores for our region as a whole and each separate area over the past 2 weeks (Joplin's 35.12 score for today is not yet final and will go up):

*Continued on next page...*

	08/20	08/21	08/22	08/23	08/24	08/25	08/26	08/27	08/28	08/29	08/30	08/31	09/01	09/02	09/03	09/04
Region-wide Risk Level	15.06	16.19	15.36	15.46	15.30	15.63	17.49	18.35	19.94	21.17	21.37	24.19	24.36	26.94	27.97	29.53
Joplin	20.62	18.95	18.67	16.17	15.61	15.33	17.00	18.12	22.02	25.36	25.92	27.31	27.31	33.72	41.25	35.12
Jasper+Joplin	17.60	19.13	16.90	18.19	17.01	18.07	20.65	23.82	24.88	27.69	29.34	30.16	30.63	33.33	37.43	37.20
Barry	15.75	14.96	15.35	11.42	11.81	12.99	11.42	10.63	12.20	11.81	12.20	12.60	11.81	9.84	8.66	7.09
Barton	4.85	6.07	8.49	8.49	12.13	12.13	16.98	20.62	21.84	29.11	27.90	24.26	25.48	24.26	21.84	20.62
Dade	3.81	5.71	5.71	5.71	5.71	3.81	5.71	5.71	7.61	11.42	13.32	19.03	19.03	15.23	19.03	15.23
Lawrence	17.43	18.18	18.18	17.06	17.06	16.32	12.98	15.58	17.06	18.55	15.58	13.73	13.73	14.84	12.98	13.35
McDonald	9.65	10.26	10.26	9.65	10.26	10.26	11.46	12.07	12.07	10.86	9.65	10.86	10.86	7.24	6.03	5.43
Newton	15.93	18.62	16.17	17.64	14.21	15.93	16.17	17.40	15.68	14.95	14.46	16.17	16.17	15.68	14.95	15.68
Delaware OK	13.94	10.62	12.95	12.28	10.95	11.62	13.61	9.96	12.28	10.95	11.29	11.29	11.62	9.96	10.95	11.29
Ottawa OK	18.97	23.60	20.82	21.75	24.06	21.28	25.45	23.60	19.90	24.99	25.91	24.99	25.45	25.91	28.69	35.63
Cherokee KS	20.91	27.39	27.39	27.39	30.28	28.84	24.51	24.51	30.28	30.28	30.28	32.44	32.44	46.86	46.86	42.53
Crawford KS	6.59	5.86	5.86	5.86	9.16	9.16	20.15	20.15	30.77	30.77	30.77	57.15	57.15	76.20	76.20	91.95

Note: the cutoff score for a “red” rating is 25.0. The Harvard Global Institute for Health interprets red as being a “tipping point” condition and recommend stay-at-home orders be implemented in order to mitigate and suppress the spread of this disease.

And here is the graph of daily counts and 7-day moving averages since the first reported case in our region back in March.



As you can see, we are approaching infection rates that nearly match the severe June outbreaks in McDonald and Crawford Counties. This time, though, the center is much more within our higher population centers.

Please keep praying, but also let your prayers inform you actions. Model good practices when you are out: wear a face covering even if others are not. Encourage others to do the same where and when you can. In doing this, we do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God while also demonstrating our value of community responsibility.

Together in Christ,  
Rich



**FROM:**  
 **AUGSBURG FORTRESS**

## **Christ in Our Home**

Matthew 21:18-22

The power of prayer

[Jesus said,] "Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive." (v. 22)

This account of Jesus cursing the fig tree seems totally out of character. Throughout the New Testament, Jesus uses his power to benefit, not to destroy. So what's going on here? Some scholars say the fig tree, for Jesus, symbolized the temple leadership. Both were intended to nourish, to comfort, and to bring peace to God's people. Both had failed.

In the unexpected ending of this story, Jesus says that his power to make the fig tree wither is nothing compared to the power of prayer. His far-fetched example of asking for a mountain to be moved invites us to pray even for what, to us, seems impossible.

Our prayer requests can include healing for those who are ill, hope for those in despair, peace in our world, and more.

Jesus, I ask for your help to live a fruitful life, and to be faithful—and even bold—in prayer. Amen.

Prayer concern: Tenders of fruit-tree orchards  
 Leviticus 16:1-5, 20-28; Psalm 119:65-72

Writers for September: Nancy Kettering Frye (September 1–15), Greg Wilcox (September 16–30)  
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**Lutheran Disaster Response**  
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
 God's work. Our hands.

*"You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust'"*  
 (Psalm 91:1-2).

Friends,

Imagine you're home and you hear a knock at the door. An official tells you to pack your essentials and evacuate, as a wildfire is speeding toward you. This is the situation many of our neighbors in the western part of the country are facing right now.

Fueled by a heat wave and unfavorable winds, devastating wildfires are raging across California, Oregon, Washington and other western states. At least 20 people have died, hundreds of thousands of people are under evacuation orders and more than 3.5 million acres have burned across the three states. Some evacuees face the difficult decision of whether to stay in a shelter during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lutheran Disaster Response is engaging with at least three Lutheran social services agencies and five synods to assess the situation and determine the best ways to respond. We expect immediate needs may include food and other necessities, as well as emotional and spiritual care for those who have been traumatized.

Your gifts will support wildfire survivors. Gifts to "U.S. wildfires" will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by wildfires until the response is complete.

Even as we face multiple crises, together we can reflect Christ's light and hope to our neighbors in their time of need.



- ♥ Franklin Kroush
- ♥ LaVaune Johnston
- ♥ Rita Sloan
- ♥ Marlene Hintz
- ♥ Beth Midcap
- ♥ April Wilson
- ♥ Bob Reid
- ♥ Bev Skancke
- ♥ Lisa K.
- ♥ Kathy Detert
- ♥ Vallie Cook
- ♥ Martha Clifton
- ♥ Pat Tikkanen
- ♥ Valetta
- ♥ Paul
- ♥ Mary Grote and her elderly parents
- ♥ Chris Cantrell
- ♥ Carolyn
- ♥ Marsha
- ♥ Murlin Hintz asks that his sister Marge be added to the prayer list. She recently was diagnosed with esophageal cancer.
- ♥ There was a message left in the lending library that said "Please pray for me to heal. My name is Sue."

With gratitude for your partnership,  
The Rev. Daniel Rift  
Director, ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response Funding  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## Ways to Give:

Checks or money orders can be sent to:

Lutheran Disaster Response  
P.O. Box 1809

Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Write "U.S. wildfires" on your check memo line.

Give by phone at 800-638-3522 or [online](#).



# Crop Walk 2020

Dear Community Friend, We hope that you will consider becoming a sponsor and participate by donating, walking or volunteering at the Ozark Area CROP Hunger Walk, which helps to end hunger one step at a time. This year, because of the coronavirus pandemic and the need for social distancing, we are introducing our VIRTUAL CROP Hunger Walk. If you would like to be a VIRTUAL Walker, please register online at <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/joplinmo>

We are excited this year to find new ways to engage our community through the Ozark Area CROP Hunger VIRTUAL Walk! As the current pandemic creates increased need for food and resources, we are fortunate to be able to give a portion of funds raised to local organizations such as Joplin Bright Futures, Webb City CARES and the Lion Co-Op (Missouri Southern State University) a campus food and personal hygiene pantry which helps MSSU students who are dealing with food insecurity. The remainder of the funds supports the global work of CWS (Church World Service) which works in more than 30 countries worldwide to empower local communities.

The Ozark Area VIRTUAL CROP Hunger Walk registration will be held on Saturday, October 17th from 9:00 to 10:00 am across from the Splash Pad Pavilion at the King Jack Park in Webb City (corner of W. 10th St. and S. Pennsylvania St.). To practice social distancing, volunteers will be wearing mask and meet you at your vehicle so you won't have to get out of your vehicle to register. After you register, plan to walk around the trail at King Jack Park individually or with your family or you can walk prior to registration in your neighborhood or city park. Stop by and enjoy shopping for fresh produce at the Webb City Farmers Market after your walk.

If you would like to make a donation, please make your online donation at <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/joplinmo> or make checks payable to: **CWS/CROP**. Please mail checks to Central United Methodist Church, 5 S. Pennsylvania St., Webb City, MO 64870.

As a sponsor, we will display your business name or logo on social media on our CROP Walk Facebook Page. Donations to CWS for the CROP Hunger Walk are tax-deductible. The CWS (Church World Service) tax identification number is **#13-4080201**. CWS is an international humanitarian organization, providing self-help and development, disaster relief, and refugee assistance throughout the world.

Thank you for your commitment to serving those in need, especially in times such as these! Together, we can help end hunger in our community and around the world.

Sincerely,

Ozark Area CROP Hunger Virtual Walk Committee  
Clint and Kim Lambeth, Walk Contact Coordinators  
5 S. Pennsylvania St. Webb City, MO 64870 417-673-4238/417-850-4238  
[office@webbcitymethodist.com](mailto:office@webbcitymethodist.com)



## PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

August 16, 2020

Meeting held via Zoom Video Conferencing

**Members Present:** Pastor Gates, Patty Heagel (President), Coleen Cameron (Secretary), Linda Rappa (Christian Ed), and Bill Eichman (Treasurer)  
**Absent:** Pat Tikkanen (President-Elect), Gary Stiles (WGS/Facilities)  
**Guest:** Amber Miller

**Opening Devotions:** Pastor led the group in devotion and prayer.

**Call to Order:** Patty called the meeting to order and a quorum was established.

### **Business Agenda**

It was **MSP** to accept the agenda, the minutes from July 12, 2020 and July 19, 2020 as well as the Treasurer's Report for July.

**Financial Status:** July offering was good and thanked Pastor for his forgoing of the salary in July. Salary will resume in September though. Missions are paid to date and utilities have been down. Year to date we have had to withdrawn \$2,368.07 from the Building Fund. Regarding the PPP loan, Bill stated Arvest Bank will have an online application but changes still occurring they are waiting on further information. He will provide updates as they are available.

**Current Needs of Church and/or Members:** Pat Tikkanen had recent surgery and Martha Clifton having surgery this Tuesday. Pastor shared that Amy is going back to teaching at the college and he will be working remotely from home now and not traveling. Member newsletter going out this week with personal updates from members.

### **Open Action Items**

**Possible Reopening Dates:** Pastor Gates had sent out email with the latest statistics for our area on the status of the COVID-19 virus. Missouri as a whole is staying in the red. Joplin teeters between red and orange. It starts to look better then will go up in numbers. **MSP** for church to stay closed until after Labor Day weekend. Patty stated we will look again at the statistics in 2 weeks.

### **New Business**

**Re-keying Building Doors:** No update as Gary was not available

**God's Work, Our Hands Sunday:** Patty asked for thoughts and suggestions of what we might be able to do. Normally Worship, Grow, Serve Committee would evaluate this but they are not meeting right now. Nothing concrete was decided and members were asked to consider for further discussion.

**Salaries:** Bill proposed paying Pastor in September as previously discussed and to continue paying Amber and Vicky as we have been through September. **MSP.**

Next Meeting: September 20, 2020

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,  
Coleen Cameron, Secretary

## PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

August 30, 2020

Meeting held via Zoom Video Conferencing

**Members Present:** Pastor Gates, Patty Heagel (President), Coleen Cameron (Secretary), Pat Tikkanen (President-Elect), and Bill Eichman (Treasurer)

**Call to Order:** Patty Heagel called the meeting to order to discuss status on reopening of the church. Patty led the group in prayer.

**Reopening:** Pastor shared his ongoing monitoring of statistics in the area. The trend is going upward/increasing. Four of our surrounding counties are in the red. Discussed if there were other options for us as a church. One suggestion was to consider meeting outside. Concerns there was the ability for people to hear if we did not have a speaker system. What do members of the congregation think?

Patty shared that the church received a letter of resignation from Paula Stewart as she has been attending the Methodist Church in Webb City and feels that is where she needs to be at this time.

It was shared that inside the church does allow for social distancing with the space we have and the number of potential attendees. There is still concern because of the increase in cases we are seeing in the area. A suggestion was made and agreed to use the calling tree and check on members and see what their thoughts were. Feedback from the members should then be sent to Executive Committee members. At this time, we will remain closed.

No further business and meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Coleen Cameron, Secretary

## PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 6, 2020

Meeting held via Zoom Video Conferencing

**Members Present:** Pastor Gates, Patty Heagel (President), Coleen Cameron (Secretary), Pat Tikkanen (President-Elect), and Bill Eichman (Treasurer)

**Call to Order:** Patty Heagel called the meeting to order to discuss status on reopening of the church. Coleen led the group in prayer.

**Reopening:** Pastor shared his ongoing monitoring of statistics in the area. Statistics show continuing rise in COVID-19 cases and our area is still in the red indicating need for social distancing, mask wearing, hand washing, and stay at home if possible. Feedback taken from the congregation indicated mix on opening vs. staying as we have been doing. Pastor shared if we did reopen there would be no singing, no communion and no sharing of the lectern area. He did suggest that maybe we could try to do a Zoom worship service. There are only a few members without internet capability. Patty said we could see if the Synod still is offering the Zoom meeting capability.

It was discussed that as the Executive Committee we have a responsibility for the care and concern of our members and in the best interest of everyone, now is still not a good time to reopen.

In the upcoming newsletter we should share the information we have on the statistics and maybe include that there are still a lot of Lutheran Churches not open in our Synod. We have to be concerned with our own area as opposed to other churches and their locations. Bill asked if there was another way to do conference meetings as he has trouble connecting. Options can be explored.

It was agreed that at the next Council meeting, September 20, we would make plans to set up a Zoom Worship Service where everyone could see each other and give it a try. We would need to touch base with Vicky on the time since she is still doing another church. No further business and meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Coleen Cameron, Secretary