



+Christian Symbol+

Violet

The violet, a symbol of humility, is used most often to refer to the Virgin Mary, whom St. Bernard (1090-1153) described as "the violet of humility." The purple flower also is sometimes used to express Christ's humility in assuming human form.

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Chapel News

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Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
337 Farview Avenue
Paramus, New Jersey 07652

Chapel News

CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Of Patience and Pruning

In many parts 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.

"God Is Not a Workaholic"

In *Sabbath as Resistance*, Walter Brueggemann likens our consumerism-driven society to ancient Egypt. Hebrew slaves made bricks for storehouses for the wealth of the upper class, at the top of which sat Pharaoh. Now, as then, the push is always to do more, earn more, make more; we worry there's not enough time or money. "In this system there can be no Sabbath rest," says the author.

Yet, at the culmination of creation, "God rested on the seventh day. God did not

show up to do more. ... God did not come and check on creation in anxiety to be sure it was all working." And "because the creator is anxiety-free," we can be too. "God is not a workaholic," writes Brueggemann. "God does not keep jacking up production schedules. To the contrary, God rests, confident, serene, at peace." God's rest, in turn, gives us — who are created in his image — a "restfulness that contradicts the 'drivenness'" of Pharaoh's Egypt and modern society.



Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

337 Farview Avenue
Paramus, New Jersey 07652
201-262-0138
christinparamus@hotmail.com

christinparamus.org

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

BE WITH GOD AT HOME
Sunday Worship 10:30AM
www.christinparamus.org 262-0138

God is
Love

-1 John 4:16

Letter from Pastor Hayley

“Be with God at home.”

That’s what it says on our church sign these days. As some states slowly try to go back to the way things used to be, and some still strongly recommend social distancing, our message to the world is “Be with God at home.”

Last month I saw an interesting Facebook post. In it God and Satan are watching the earth, and Satan says, “I shut down all the churches with this virus,” and God replies “Actually, I opened churches in every home.”

Yes, because of this deadly scary virus we’ve lost loved ones. We’ve not been able to gather in our own sanctuary to have worship and fellowship as people of God. We, like many others, have been frustrated.

It seems like Satan has won this round.

Our church is an essential part of us, especially when we are in crisis. After 9/11 people gathered in churches and prayed and found comfort and strength together. It was a visible sign of a spiritual presence in a time of crisis. However this time this virus

attacked the very backbone of the power of the church, the healing power of gathering, worshiping, sharing in Holy Communion and fellowship. It took everything away from us.

Despite the fact that Satan appears to be winning, like the Facebook post says, God opened home churches everywhere. We still worship and spiritually gather together virtually. God is still there for us, and we are still there for each other, as people of God. We do not grieve as those who have no hope. We have hope in Christ so that we can endure this separation, create ways to be together separately. We know that we are going to meet again. The promise that we received through our Lord, Jesus Christ, is that God will never leave us alone in the midst of darkness. So until we see each other again in our pews, be safe, and be faithful people of God who trust that he will be there with us, where two or three gather in his name.

In Christ,
Pastor Hayley

Please Pray for These Loved Ones

Donna Archer, Karen Bartholomew, Kathleen Bhargava, Maggie Brower, Young Hee Choi, Lillian Cooper, Ron DePue, Rich Dugan, Nora Edwards, the Fernandez Family, Al Frielink, Krista Fuchs, Mark Hallwell, Diane Hesse, Jae Hee Kim, Nadine Kohn, Soon Hoi Koo, Dennis and Jennifer Kruk, Anna and Walter Kruk, Mary Kurzum, Bill Kyritz, Rich Lindeberg, Renee Lomelino, Kaethe Lorch, Marie Lupinski, Dennis Marinkovich, Dorothy Mulroe, Emma and Richard Murphy, Amy Nywening, Lionel Ortega, Shepard Palance, Karen Richardson, Doris Robinson, Cathy and Roger Schramm, Evelyn Schramm, Yorg Schultheis, Michael Siekmann, Nancy Sweet, Marge Tomaselli, Jaime Battaglia van Dam, Lenny van Dam, Jennifer Viehmeyer, June Ward, Irma Weishaupt, Louis Wernick, Robert Wiederschall, Elenor Witte, Paul Witte and Claire Zimmerman

And those serving in the military...

Ryan Coiley, Bryant Rodriguez Cyriax, Greg Flintall, Daniel Jaichner, Devin Vega and Rachel Zarnke

And those who can’t always be with us...

Al Frielink, Grete Potts and Irma Weishaupt

If you would like someone to be added to or removed from the prayer lists, please contact the Church Office at 201-262-0138.

Trust the Artist

We must offer ourselves to God like a clean, smooth canvas and not worry ourselves about what God may choose to paint on it, but at each moment, feel only the stroke of his brush. ... It is the same with a piece of stone. Each blow from the sculptor's chisel makes it feel ... as if it were being destroyed. ... All I know is that I must stay immobile in the hands of the sculptor. ... I have no idea what he is doing ... but I know his work is the best possible.

—Jean Pierre de Caussade,
newsletternewsletter.com



Bible Quiz



While 70 Israelite men were commissioned as prophets at the tent of meeting, two others, Eldad and Medad, were reported to have prophesied in the camp — not following “proper” protocols. Who defended them?

- A. Moses
- B. Joshua
- C. Jethro
- D. The Lord

Answer: A (See Numbers 11:24-29.)

Debt-free, by Grace

Visiting with her passenger, Uber driver Latonya Young mentioned her determination to finish college — and a \$700 debt that barred her from enrolling in more classes. “Every time I got ready to pay the money, my kids needed something,” she said later. “I said, ‘Okay, I’ll just wait.’”

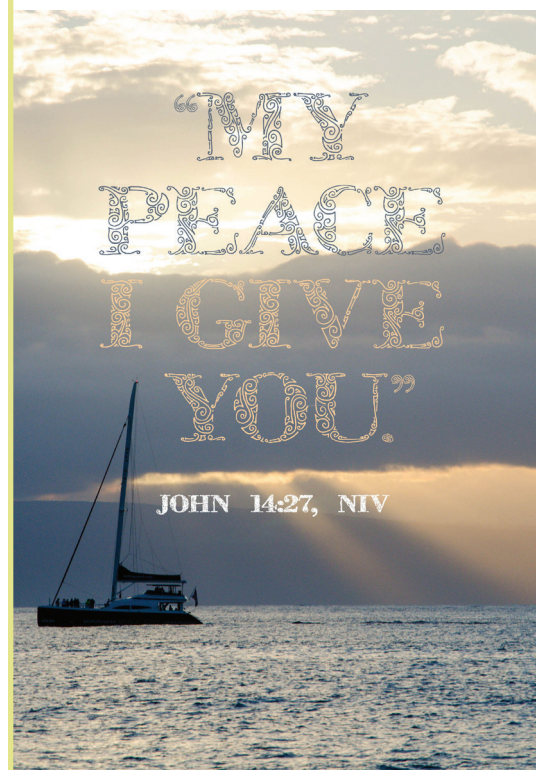
To Young’s great surprise, a few days after that Uber conversation, she learned that her customer, Kevin Esch, had paid her debt; she could reenroll! In response, Young persevered to finish her degree with strong grades. “When he paid the balance, I had to do this for

him,” she said of Esch, who attended her graduation.

Young’s self-sacrifice for her children and Esch’s self-sacrifice for a stranger both pale, of course, in comparison to Jesus’ sacrifice of his very life to save us. Like Young held back by debt, we were captive to sin until “the Son of Man came ... to give his life as a ransom” (Matthew 20:28, ESV). Young did nothing to earn Esch’s gift, and we can do nothing to earn salvation. But as she responded by using the gift to its fullest, we embrace God’s gift by living in thanksgiving and praise, love and service.







We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the families of Carolyn Nugent and Wilma Lundgren, as they both passed away on April 13, 2020. Wishing them strength and comfort in the months ahead.



CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 Worship Service (Virtual) 10:30am 	4 Lectionary Bible Study (Virtual) 11:00am	5	6	7 National Day of Prayer	8	9
10 Mother's Day Worship Service (Virtual) 10:30am	11 Lectionary Bible Study (Virtual) 11:00am	12	13	14 	15	16
17 Worship Service (Virtual) 10:30am Council Meeting (Virtual) 12:00pm	18 Lectionary Bible Study (Virtual) 11:00am 	19	20	21 Ascension Day	22	23
24 Worship Service (Virtual) 10:30am 	25 Memorial Day	26	27	28	29	30
31 Pentecost Worship Service (Virtual) 10:30am						