

CASL

We Are Gathered and Sent

Rest For the Weary



Jeremiah 31:23-26

²³ This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: "When I bring them back from captivity,^[c] the people in the land of Judah and in its towns will once again use these words: 'The LORD bless you, you prosperous city, you sacred mountain.' ²⁴ People will live together in Judah and all its towns—farmers and those who move about with their flocks. ²⁵ I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint." ²⁶ At this I awoke and looked around. My sleep had been pleasant to me.

Oh, how wonderful it will be when I can sleep, wake, and not worry about the struggles of these days. I don't know about you, but sleep is harder these days. I worry about when we will be able to worship in person again, whether it is safe for me to visit folks, how we will build new relationships with people moving into our area, and so many other things.

And I know that God tells us that today's worries are enough for today, but my mind sometimes still goes into that mode of looking forward to all that might happen. Borrowing trouble is something that I think lots of people are doing these days.

But in Jeremiah God speaks a word of hope to the people of Judah. God will restore the lands, the homes, and the fields for the people; they will no longer dream of their homeland from afar because God will bring them home again. Rest will happen; joy will happen; freedom will happen. And we hear these words as hope in a time of weariness, as we look from afar at our sanctuary, where we have felt such joy and peace. God will bring us home again. But God will also, in the meantime, provide us with innovative ways of being community.

We are a people of faith, a people who hope in the future. And when we become weary, we look to God to give us rest. May you be blessed with rest in this time and hope in the future. If you need further encouragement, I recommend reading all of Jeremiah 31; and please call me if you need anything, or if you just want to talk.

Peace.

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"God's work. Our hands."

Sunday, September 12, 2021 was an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) - one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Since 2013, thousands of ELCA congregations have participated in this opportunity and dedicated one day to serve communities in ways that share the love of God with all people. In the past, members of Abiding Savior have provided assistance to schools in our neighborhood. For several years, the congregation has given assistance to W.G. Pearson Magnet School. With a grant from Thrivent Financial and contributions from the congregation, school supplies were delivered to the students there. The supplies included color pencils, dry erase markers, crayons, kid scissors, pencils, pencil sharpeners, erasers, glue sticks, pens, notecards, bookbags, wide-rule paper, notebooks, paper folders, composition notebooks, pencil pouches, paper clips, sticky notes and printer paper. The school operates its own food pantry since many of the students receive free lunch. Our plans are to have a collection for non-perishables to help them to stock their food pantry.



Thanks Pastor!

Pastor Paul was called to Abiding Savior in 2020 and began ministry with us in September. On September 19th we took the time to thank him for his pastoral leadership and to celebrate 1 year of ministry together. With the restrictions imposed by Covid-19, we surprised him with an outdoor luncheon at Bocci's Italian Restaurant.



CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!!!!!!!

To Greg & Chrissy on the birth of baby Abbie Butscher Nesbitt born on September 25, @ 9:43pm

SYNOD NEWS

A SACRED REMEMBRANCE

A Sacred Remembrance

At its September meeting, the North Carolina Synod Council read from the letter shared by the [ELCA American Indian/Alaska Native Association](#). The letter, dated July 23, 2021 reads:

We speak to you all today on behalf of the Indigenous people throughout North Americas. We come with sad hearts at the news of 215+ children of the Kamloops Residential School whose remains were recently found in a mass grave and of the children of the Rosebud Sioux whose bodies were returned to their homeland this past week. They are being remembered by many by the color orange. The color orange is symbolic and came from the inspiration of a survivor of that era, Phyllis Webstad, who stated that when she was a 6-year-old girl arriving at a residential boarding school, she was stripped of her clothes which included a new orange t-shirt her grandmother had gifted her and was never given back. The orange shirt/color now symbolizes how the church and the schools they administered took away the Indigenous identity of the children in their care.

In honor and memory of the children of the First Nations people and of our Native children who never made it home, and for those still living the nightmare imposed on them as children of Canada and the United States we humbly ask our brothers and sisters of the church to hang an orange banner in the sanctuaries of your churches for 225 days. In remembrance and lament of each child that was thrown into those graves, and those yet to be discovered we honor each of their lives.

Please grieve with us and remember us as the Indigenous people of this land who are going through a very sad and heartbreaking time in our collective psyche. We invite all our Christian brothers and sisters, in solidarity with us, to honor all our First Nations and our Native children that never made it out of residential schools by hanging an orange banner for 225 days.

The synod council reviewed the letter and approved a motion from leaders across our synod to engage in this sacred remembrance—and to continue to take steps of lamentation, confession, reconciliation, and healing.

Beginning **Thursday, September 30**, the day when many will wear orange to remember, we too will be wearing orange and draping the synod office chapel with orange fabric.

Will you join us? Join us in draping this fabric, not out of obligation or guilt, but as a sacred remembrance. Make space in your sanctuaries for the memory of children lost far too soon in traumatic and unjust ways. Make space in your sanctuaries for pieces of orange fabric as a commitment to healing with our First Nations siblings.

Orange fabric is only one step in our journey together to honor and heal relationships with our native siblings. Join us in this step. We will continue to share other ways you can grow including making a land acknowledgment, contributing to the AROC Fund of the synod that will support the ongoing work of Living Waters, Cherokee, and lifting up advocacy opportunities in your local community.

Walking with you.

Diana Haywood
Vice President, North Carolina Synod

CASL Ministry Reports

Peeler/Casey Grant

With accessible restroom facilities being an area of dire need in the church building, a grant application was completed to the North Carolina Synod for a grant. An example is that our current restrooms cannot accommodate wheelchairs. At its September meeting, the Synod Council approved a \$40,000 grant to help to provide for restrooms that will be available and accessible to all.

Expansion Update

In addition to restrooms, our current expansion project will add 2 small conference rooms onto the front of the building. We have a contractor with drawings from a structural engineer. The updated cost for the entire project is approximately \$294,000. Permits have been submitted to the city of Durham and a loan was secured through the Mission Investment Fund (MIF). The anticipation was for the project to begin in September. We are in the process of making the changes, updates and additions required for permit approval and hope to begin any day now.

Communion

During October, Holy Communion will be available on the first Sunday, *October 3rd* and again on *October 31st*, Reformation Sunday.

Our understanding of Holy Communion is that it takes place in the assembly. On Holy Communion Sundays, Pastor Paul will preach and preside on zoom from the sanctuary. The worship assistant will also be in the sanctuary. Consecration of the Bread and Wine will take place during the zoom worship service. The Bread and Wine are pre-packaged in kits. Following worship service, 12:30 pm – 1:30 the communion kits will be distributed to the congregation who will be invited to “drive by” and pick up a communion kit.

Youth and Faith Formation

Sunday school for youth (aka Mighty Disciples for Christ) and adults resumed on September 12th. Youth gather in 2 zoom breakout rooms from 10:30 am to 10:55 am. Adults also gather via zoom 9:45-10:30am and use the “Wired Word” which is a resource connecting current events and scripture. Sunday school leaders are needed for the youth classes. Please consider volunteering. Contact Paula Kelly for more information.

***In reach & Stewardship
(next page)***

Sunday, October 17, 2021 is Stewardship Sunday at Abiding Savior. **All** will be asked to complete a "Time and Talent" form. Use this sample form to think and pray about how you can use your time and talents. Please review and volunteer to serve in more than one area.

Your hands and hearts are needed.

PROPERTY

- Maintain All Physical Property Interior And Exterior
- Develop And Execute Improvement Projects
- Monitor Use Of Buildings And Grounds

WORSHIP/MUSIC

- Usher
- Altar Guild
- Choir
- Men's Choir
- Worship Assistant
- Reader
- Manage Audio/Video Equipment

FELLOWSHIP and STEWARDSHIP

- Newsletters
- Telephone Chain
- Lead Shepherd Team
- Dinners/Receptions
- Coordinate Retreats/Picnics
- Setup, Serve, or Cleanup
- Coordinate Time/Talent
- Develop/Implement Regular/Special Stewardship Education/Programs

FINANCE

- Count Money / Prepare Deposits
- Serve on Finance Committee
- Serve on Audit Committee

YOUTH and EDUCATION

- Sunday School Teacher
- VBS Volunteer/Teacher
- Curriculum
- Youth Education Programs
- Carnival/Festival
- Youth Programs
- Youth Retreats
- Encourage Participation In Youth Programs Outside The Congregation

SOCIAL CONCERNS and EVANGELISM

- Assemble overdose Prevention Kits for People Affected by the Opioid Crisis
- Work in the Community Garden
- Knock on Doors Near the Church with Food and Information
- Make Follow Up Calls to and Visit with Community Members

- Write Letters to People in Prison
- Prepare Food Ahead of Time to be Served at Urban Ministries
- Assemble Pre-prepared Food In-person at Urban Ministries
- I Have Other Ideas for Outreach Activities I'd Like to Shar

RECORDS

- Quarterly/Annual Reports
- News Releases/Articles
- Church Directory
- Maintenance Of Archives
- Keep Time/Talent Files

*******SPECIAL*******

- Martin Luther King Celebration
- Black History/Brotherhood Month Celebration
- Church Anniversary (February)
- Help with Zoom and/or other technology
- Other (Specify) _____

Name:
Date:

TIME AND TALENT COMMITMENT 2021-2022

Dates to Remember

All Ministry Meetings

Our regular ministry meeting day is the first Saturday of each month. This month that will be on *October 3rd*. Be on the look out for a message with the meeting specifics.

Children's Sabbaths

Oct 15-17 An annual multi-faith observance of engaging worshippers across the country in making a difference in the lives of children. >>childrensdefense.org

2021 National CROP Hunger Walk

Join the **2021 National CROP Hunger Walk** on **World Food Day, October 16**, and end hunger in the U.S. and around the world! Walk on your treadmill, in your neighborhood, in a park with friends—you choose the location and the experience. Walk one day —3.7 miles (the average distance a woman walks for water—or take the Weekend Challenge and walk 11.1 miles (3.7 miles for 3 days). Every step you take, every dollar you raise makes the walk shorter for neighbors in need by providing clean water, emergency food as well as livelihoods and access to education. Sign-up and start raising funds TODAY at www.crophungerwalk.org/usa! Contact info@cwsglobal.org for more information.

Stewardship Sunday – October 17th

Stewardship is not just a matter of responsibly allocating resources, it is a deeply Spiritual practice. Our gifts to God are part of our response to God for all God has done for us. Our gifts to God are literally, a return gift. God has given us our very lives. “God has given... and still preserves [our] bodies and [our] souls.” In return, we thank God with our financial gifts. We thank God with our gifts of time. We thank God with our gifts of talent—all given to God in God’s name. Hopefully, we give joyfully. We give to God in so many different ways besides the obvious. On Stewardship Sunday, October 17th we will have the opportunity to pledge our time and talent and also financial support to the congregation. Ministry continues and your support is needed. Please prayerfully consider your 2022 pledge.

Reformation Sunday October 31st

Martin Luther posted his “Ninety-Five Theses” in Wittenberg on Oct. 31, 1517, and the resulting debate about Christian teaching and practice led to changes that have shaped the course of Western Christianity. At the core of these wide-reaching changes was a deep conviction that God’s mercy or grace in Jesus is given freely to all. When Luther and others learned to trust God’s mercy with “a living, daring confidence,” they discovered in that faith the freedom to give themselves generously, lovingly in all of life’s undertakings with everyone they met. One of the 95 theses simply declares “The Church’s true treasure is the gospel of Jesus Christ”.

The changes began with a critical look at confession and forgiveness, preaching and the sacraments — what Luther called the “means of grace.” The sale of indulgences, the practice of penance, the content of preaching, the administration of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper — were all restrictions that impeded the message of God’s mercy from being heard and received fully by all.

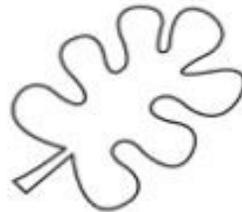
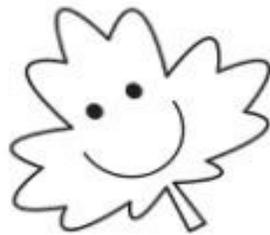
On this day we celebrate the heart of our faith: the Gospel of Christ, the Good News, that makes us free! We have the assurance that humans may reach salvation by their faith and not by their deeds.

Nov 7 All Saint’s Day

Nov 14 Semi-Annual Congregational meeting



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for

Jesus



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