

~~~Welcome to the Friday Flash for April 16, 2021~~~

~MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SONJA~

Dear Ones in Christ,

It is the Easter season, and we begin our worship with the reminder, He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia! And we also hear of the tragic shooting of another young black man in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area.

We are reminded that our joy and sorrow are always intertwined and close at hand. We continue to have fruitful conversations during adult education based on Ibram Kendi's book, How to Be an Anti-Racist. And we know we must move from conversation to action. The work of the gospel in Jesus focused on feeding, healing, and caring for those most hurt by the ruling Roman Empire.

If you are wondering, "What can I actually do?" our first work is to take a look at our spheres of influence ... our homes, this faith community, our workplaces, our city, and our state. What is taking place that affirms or denies the rights and humanity of our neighbor? Do we talk about racial inequity with our families or is it a "taboo" topic that we hope will disappear if not mentioned? What practices in our faith community are open to the needs of those not yet here, and which serve to exclude or invalidate the experiences of BIPOC? What is happening at our city and state level to extend or limit conversation, rights, and advocacy?

In all things we know we are beloved children of God, and in Christ we are compelled to love God and love our neighbor. May you feel this love of God so profoundly that you cannot do anything but share it with the world this week!

Peace be with You,

Pastor Sonja

*Feel free to stop during my Office Hours, Monday 10 a.m.-noon, Wednesday noon-2 p.m. and Thursday 10 a.m.-noon. Office Hours are hours you can generally come and I am here and available. My day off is Friday. If you wish to schedule a time outside of office hours, you are invited to contact the church office to arrange an appointment.*

~WORSHIP~

**In-Person Worship Study Group Update**

The In-Person Worship Study Group has faithfully met in March and April to: 1) to review progress toward the metrics approved by council to return to in-person worship and 2) to develop specific protocols that will be followed when in-person worship resumes. The metrics provided by the Covid Task Force and approved by council in January 2021 are:

- Four weeks of continuous downward trajectory of confirmed positive cases in Story and Boone counties - specifically, a positivity rate of 5% or less (The spike in March

brought positivity rates above 5%. Since then, it has trended downward. **PROGRESSING**)

- Hospitalization of positive COVID-19 patients in Ames consistently at or below 10 patients **(MET)**
- Local medical center/hospital supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE) adequate to meet local demands **(MET)**
- Adequate local availability of testing **(MET)**

Vaccines are being opened up to persons ages 16-65 this week, depending on availability. The team will meet again in two weeks to monitor the metrics. We are hopeful the increased vaccination will continue to lower the percentage of infections and will provide an update to council and recommendation for May at that time. Thank you for the dedication of the In-Person Worship Study Group to faithfully steward the health and safety of this faith community as members and contributors to Ames and the surrounding communities.

#### ~ANNOUNCEMENTS~

- **Mary Lokken Memorial Service, April 24, 12 p.m. Livestreamed:** Please join in remembering Mary before God, giving thanks for her life, commending her to our merciful redeemer, and comforting one another in our grief. A small gathering of family and friends will be in-person and all are invited to join in the Livestreamed service by clicking here <https://youtu.be/QhRPsGwq4B0>.
- **Nancy Dobson Remembrance:** The family of Nancy Dobson invites you to join in a Garden Party in mom's yard Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, *Family 10:30 a.m.-5:00, Friends and neighbors 1:00-5:00*. Come and enjoy the space and share memories in the place she loved the most. 1102 Scott Ave., Ames, IA 50014. No RSVP is required.
- **The Blessings Box** is focusing on personal care needs. Items such as, shampoo, deodorant, personal/menstrual hygiene, toothpaste, etc. are much appreciated and needed. Thanks!
- **Edwards School** needs snacks for their students. You can drop them off at the church during office hours (9am-3:30pm, Monday-Friday), or contact Mary Johnson (515-231-0716) to arrange for her to pick them up from you.
- **Christ in Our Home** booklets are here for APRIL-MAY-JUNE. Contact the office at [office@standrewsames.org](mailto:office@standrewsames.org) or call 515-292-2131 if you would like a copy.
- **Saving Suds donations.** Donations can be made by check or on-line. Please send your check to the church written to "St. Andrew's Lutheran Church" and put "Saving Suds " in the memo line. On-line donations can be made through the "Give" tab on the church website and selecting the "Saving Suds " option. Questions to Linda Seaverson, [seaverson.linda@gmail.com](mailto:seaverson.linda@gmail.com).
- **Happy Anniversary** to Brett & Shari Redies on April 19 and Forrest & Joan Dubberke on April 27.

- **Happy Birthday** to Kris Peterson (5<sup>th</sup>), Analise Gerstenberger (6<sup>th</sup>), Andrew Kovar (7<sup>th</sup>), Betty Beard (17<sup>th</sup>), Roy Teas (17<sup>th</sup>), Nikki Gerstenberger (17<sup>th</sup>), Pat Thompson (17<sup>th</sup>), Laurie Evans (21<sup>st</sup>), Mary Johnson (21<sup>st</sup>), Carol Moran (21<sup>st</sup>), Janet Dixon (22<sup>nd</sup>), Laura Frescoln (22<sup>nd</sup>), Serena Paulson (26<sup>th</sup>), Richard Olson (27<sup>th</sup>), Jim Copley (29<sup>th</sup>), Karen Jensen (29<sup>th</sup>), Miriam Takle (30<sup>th</sup>)

## ~CHRISTIAN FAITH FORMATION~

### **Adult Form, Sundays at 9 a.m. via Zoom**

Join us again starting Sunday April 11 AM we discuss "How to be an Antiracist" by Ibram X Kendi (even if you haven't read/don't have time to read the book). Come enjoy our wonderful discussions as we learn together about racism in the world, our country, and in our own lives. Please join us! Please click this URL to start or join. <https://iastate.zoom.us/j/93021623304>

### **One Star Youth Update**

Happy Easter season! What a joyous time in the church year. I always think that it is appropriate that it falls during spring which is such a life-giving time in our calendar year. Even more appropriate this year as we are anticipating meeting more normally in person again very soon. We hope that you are all finding joy and hope in this season.

*A few reminders for our ongoing events and new confirmation time:*

### **Confirmation Class**

Confirmation meets in the youth room on **Wednesday nights from 5:30 - 6:30**. Be sure to wear a mask and bring your blue Lutheran study bible if you took it home with you. Pastor Sonja will be joining in with the class!

### **High School Youth Group**

High School Youth Group is meeting on Tuesdays from 7:00 - 8:00 pm in the youth room. Be sure to wear a mask. This semester we are walking through how to build and grow service organizations. It's a super applicable semester as many of you are interested in doing this. We're looking forward to working with you each week to bring your visions into reality!

### **Middle School and High School Sunday School**

Sunday School will continue to be online for right now. We meet Sunday mornings from 9:00 - 10:00 for bible study on the gospel lesson of the week. We resend the link to join each Sunday morning.

### **Confirmation Camp**

We WILL be going to confirmation camp this year! Woohoo! Camp has announced that they will be open for campers. Blythe and Pastor Sonja will be accompanying the confirmands to camp. Stay tuned for dates and registration information soon!

## ~PRAYERS~

**Troy Eagen** (Sharon Anderson's son-in-law), **John Litzel**, **Libby Litzel Gull**, **Mark Ekeren** (brother of Sarah Buck), **Jane Ellis**, **Wayne Thompson** (brain tumor), **Marilyn** (Gene Pollmann's sister), **Jen Tongay** (Sarah Runyan's sister-in-law), **June Lokken** (MaryJune Cain's aunt), **Alice Becher** (Stephen Loucks' mother), **Marjorie Allison**, **Sara Ojard** (Tom & Sharon Prochnow's daughter) **Kim** (Glynn & Dagmar Frank's daughter-in-law), **Gene Takle**, **Tammy Clarke** (Linda Hansen's cousin), **Lou Jordan** (Dagmar Frank's cousin), **Nancy Owen** (Carol Putz's cousin, battling cancer), **Susan** (Glynn & Dagmar Frank's daughter), **Nietewe [Nee eh tee way]** (Hedaru, TZ, passed away in car accident).

For all those suffering from loneliness and grief, addiction and illness-both mental and physical, poverty and need, war and strife; we pray to the Lord to bless them and give them peace.

We continue to pray for the health and needs of the people in the Ames Community, of Pine Ridge Reservation, and of the Hedaru Parish in Tanzania and all communities throughout the world.

Please send any announcements, prayers, or updates to the office at [office@standrewsames.org](mailto:office@standrewsames.org) or call 515-292-2131.

## ~CHURCHWIDE NEWS~

### **ELCA Young Adults: Abide, Registration Now Open**

Abide small group registration for individual and group participation leadership applications are now open for the Spring 2021 meeting series in small groups. Registration closes April 16.

<https://sites.google.com/view/2020fallabide/participant-registration?authuser=0>

### **Story County Broadband Survey**

Story County, along with ten (10) other counties in Central Iowa, is participating in a study to determine the availability of adequate and affordable broadband service throughout our county.

An important part of this study is a survey of Story County residents. The Survey is open now through Tuesday, April 27 and can be accessed on the website for the [Greater Des Moines Partnership](https://www.dsmpartnership.com/growing-business-here-central-iowa-broadband-internet) (<https://www.dsmpartnership.com/growing-business-here-central-iowa-broadband-internet>), which is coordinating the study.

### **Synod Derecho Fund Closing**

Thank you to all of the individuals, congregations, and synods who have contributed to the Derecho fund through the Office of the Bishop. When the storm hit Iowa in August some of our most vulnerable Iowa neighbors suddenly found themselves without shelter, food, and power. More than \$93,000 has been distributed through the office of the bishop to organizations that serve those most vulnerable to this kind of disaster. This primarily includes local and regional food and feeding organizations; and assistance with displacement and housing as a result of the storm.

The Office of the Bishop is now closing this fund. If you would like to continue to give to derecho relief

efforts or disaster response below is a list of organizations:

- [Lutheran Disaster Response](#)
- [Lutheran Services in Iowa](#)
- [Food Bank of Iowa](#)
- [Hawkeye Area Community Action Project \(HACAP\)](#)
- [Northeast Iowa Food Bank](#)
- [River Bend Food Bank](#)

If you have any questions please contact Kathy Smith, [smith@seiasynod.org](mailto:smith@seiasynod.org)