



# **Paradise Pulse**

Paradise Lutheran Church Newsletter—June 2020

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

**Worship God**  
**Walk with Jesus**  
**Welcome all to Paradise**

10255 Paradise Blvd.

Treasure Island, FL 33706

Email: [paradiseluth102@gmail.com](mailto:paradiseluth102@gmail.com)

Website: [paradiselutheran.com](http://paradiselutheran.com)



## **MESSAGE FROM PASTOR**

Dear Paradise Lutheran Church,

I know some of you are curious about when we will be able to gather again in the sanctuary. The decisions of when to resume in sanctuary worship, and what those worship services will look like, are going to be difficult ones. These decisions are ultimately going to be made by Paradise Lutheran Church's council. We will do our best to make informed and knowledgeable decisions that are the best for our congregation.

On May 22nd, Bishop Suarez sent a letter in response to President's Trump call for churches to immediately resume in sanctuary worship. I have included that letter in our newsletter this month. I think Bishop Saurez's letter captures the importance of us being careful, not only as individuals, but as a congregation. And that while I like some of you are getting restless to return to in sanctuary worship, it is paramount that we take the time, and make sure proper preparations are made before we resume in sanctuary services.

In the meantime, we will continue to provide online and drive-in worship. And continue to seek ways to keep our community connected to each other and to God.

God Bless,

-Pastor Tom



God's work. Our hands.

## **Bishop Suarez's Response to President Trump**

May 22, 2020

This afternoon, President Donald Trump declared that all governors should open churches immediately and said that churches should be considered essential businesses. I want to offer some reflection on this and how it affects us in the Florida-Bahamas Synod.

I want to remind you that churches are already listed as essential businesses in Florida. Governor DeSantis does not prevent any of us from worshipping. Because of the separation of church and state, the government cannot prevent us from worshipping, or compel us to worship, at any time. However, it is strongly recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Florida Department of Health that in this "Phase 1" of our reopening, we limit public gatherings as much as possible.

In the Florida-Bahamas Synod, my recommendation is that congregations wait until at least "Phase 3" of statewide reopening before they return to in-person worship. When we are finally able to gather, we recommend continuing to follow safe distancing practices, including wearing masks, staying six feet apart, and cleaning and disinfecting the sanctuary after services. The ELCA and our Synod's guidelines are available on our webpage [www.fbsynod.com](http://www.fbsynod.com).

We do not recommend our congregations begin to gather at this time, but legally, you can. Most of our congregations have decided not to have in-person services out of concern for the health and safety of their members. Those that have decided to try and have services are encouraged to use social distancing procedures and avoid practices which can contribute to the spread of the virus, such as singing, shaking hands, passing the peace, or distributing Holy Communion.

COVID-19 is a national emergency, but returning to in-person services is not yet a priority at this time. We urge you to continue doing services online for the time being, until we are in "Phase 3" or upon recommendation from the CDC.

My ultimate recommendation is that we continue to hold off on in-person worship until, at least, “Phase 3” of reopening. For those who have decided to try and have services, we strongly recommend following the safe meeting practices and continuing to uphold social distancing. In all of this we continue to encourage you to pray for each other, for our communities, for our nation and

The President’s announcement could encourage people to want to follow his advice and open the congregations this weekend. I would strongly recommend against that. I think there is too much risk for a congregation to safely gather this weekend unless they have had a proper amount of time to put policies and procedures in place to protect their members. It would be dangerous to rush in when we have time to plan and make the best decisions for our congregations.

Sisters and Brothers, I continue to thank God for you. Thank you for the way you care for each other and for your congregations in this time.

May God be with you.

Peace and health,

+ Bp. Pedro

Rev. Pedro Suarez, Bishop

Florida-Bahamas Synod, ELCA



## **Sunday Worship Services**

### **Drive-in Worship**

**10:00 a.m.**

Also during this time we will be collecting food donations as part of offering for Hope Lutheran Church. The current need is for the following items:

- Soup
- White rice
- Canned vegetables
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Meat
- Non-perishable prepared meals  
(e.g. spaghetti o's and ravioli)

### **On-Line Worship**

We will be emailing a link to our video recorded services every Sunday. Also, be on the look out for an email with the weekly bulletin.

## **WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE**

Although we only had an on-line service on May 3, we had our first drive-in service on May 10. Helping to put together that first-ever event were:

**Worship Leader:** Pastor Tom Mitchell

**Keyboardist:** Gail Clark

**Cantor, violinist:** Linda Macy

**Ushers, traffic directors, food donation gatherers, etc. :**

Chris Campas, Ken Upleger, Bob Kosten, Joy Kosten, Marilyn Wambold, Jaci Mitchell, Carol Mathews, Bob Rogers.

We estimated about 28 vehicles lined up on the east side of the parking lot. Our best guess is 67 attended. Cute little individual communion cups enabled us to have both wafer and grape juice. Although there were a few glitches regarding the FM transmitter, it was a good first try and you could tell members of the congregation were glad to see each other, even if they were spaced at least a car apart.

The second drive-in service on May 17 went considerably smoother with the FM transmitter broadcasting to a different station. Additional volunteers included David, Stephanie, and Justin Leslie at the offering table. 50 attended.

Our third drive-in service was on May 24, Ascension Day. It was cloudy with temperatures in the low 80's and a breeze from the north, so it was pretty pleasant. New volunteers included Kathy Rabey, song leader, and Taylor Leslie, usher. 55 attended. Pastor encouraged everybody to paint their cars red for next week's Pentecost service. You'll have to wait until the next newsletter to see how that turned out.

## **WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE CONTINUED**

Children's sermons continued on-line on Wednesdays May 6, May 14, and May 23. If you haven't been to church lately (and I'm thinking that's our winter visitors and associate members who escaped before the coronavirus hit), you would not believe how grown up Jo has become. Although she's only three, she's a lot more attentive during those sermons. She and Pastor film them on the deck in their back yard. Sometimes the dog wanders into the scene, too. If you haven't been receiving links via e-mail, you can see videos of the services and children's sermons on the church's website at [paradiselutheran.com](http://paradiselutheran.com).

We're grateful for those members and friends who continue to give offerings by mailing them to the church, on-line, or putting their envelope in the table at the end of the driveway after the service. Thank you!

Watch this space and e-mails from the church for news about when we can actually worship inside together.

Sharon Koelsch, Member





## **Church Offerings**

If you are unable to make it to our drive-in worship but would like to make an offering, the church is still able to take the offerings.

You can donate to the church by mailing in your offering or online by clicking the link that will be provided in the email when the recording of the Sermon and Prayers is sent out.



## **Contact Us**

Please feel free to email us with any concerns at:  
[paradiseluth102@gmail.com](mailto:paradiseluth102@gmail.com)

In an event of an emergency you can reach  
Pastor Tom at 803-530-7362 and  
Nina at 727-504-5091.

## **PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

It took about a month, but all the interior beams were sanded and sealed. Originally, we had planned to only do the five beams in the nave, but decided to add the fellowship hall and kitchen. The painter felt that it would look better to have the beams in all the offices and storage rooms sanded and sealed, as well, since they were visible through the interior upper windows. He was right. The whole building looks considerably better. Before and after photos are posted in the church and I look forward to your eventually seeing them and the beams themselves – someday.

Pastor, Marilyn Wambold, and I met with an engineer who is going to create drawings for the altar renovations so that Dan Lombardo, our contractor, can work on that project soon. Our original plan was to have this job done during the summer (last summer and the summer before, but that didn't happen) when the church is less busy. Hopefully, this project will now proceed quickly and will be completed during summer 2020.

Sharon Koelsch  
Chairperson

## **OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

Paradise Lutheran Church Outreach is still serving. As you know we are collecting food for Hope Delores Pantry. My heartfelt gratitude goes out to every member and neighbor that has so generously given to this mission.

Thrivent Action Team gave \$250.00 in seed money for our Yard and Bake sale. They have also allowed us to change projects and allocate the funds to areas of need. Outreach has decided to spend that amount to stock Delores Pantry. Please keep praying for all the families that need this service in this very stressful time.

Paradise Lutheran Church is always collecting food for people in need, this project will end June 29th, 2020.

May God Bless you and yours. Stay safe and well!

Sister in Christ,

Joan S



## **RESOURCES**

This week we have included some printable scripture cards for you to cut out and pass on to family and friends or to just keep on your desk for inspiration. These are just a few cards provided to us by our instant church directory companion. We have included the link below if you would like to access more cards.

We have also included informational websites from the last newsletter just in case you did not get a chance to view them. These websites will provide you with updates on the Covid-19, as well as on most recent research on how to stay active and healthy.

-Nina

### **Updates on COVID-19 and & information on staying healthy**

<https://www.cdc.gov/>

### **Nutrition recommendations, recipes, food fact cards and more**

<https://www.choosemyplate.gov/>

<https://www.nutrition.gov/usda-ree>


### **Recommendations on staying active**

<https://health.gov/our-work/food-nutrition>

### **Free printable scripture cards**

<https://blog.churchart.com/free-printable-scripture-cards/>





**Come to me,  
all who labor and  
are heavy laden,  
and I will  
give you rest.**

**Matthew 11:28**

#### Instructions

Print and cut out the cards along the lines. Then you can do all sorts of things with the uplifting cards.

- Write a note on the back and give it to a neighbor or mail it to someone who is alone.
- Place the cards around your house so you can read and consider God's Word. Try to memorize the verses.
- Laminate the cards to make them last longer.

All verses are ESV  
© 2020 CRI | [www.ChurchArt.com](http://www.ChurchArt.com)





... fear not,  
*for I am with you;*  
 be not dismayed,  
*for I am your God;*  
 I will strengthen you,  
 I will help you,  
 I will uphold you  
 with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

Therefore,  
 since we are surrounded by  
 so great a cloud of witnesses,  
 let us also lay aside  
 every weight, and...

*run with endurance the race*  
 that is set before us,  
*looking to Jesus*  
 the founder and  
 perfecter of our faith.

Hebrews 12:1-2



... do not be anxious  
 about anything,  
 but in everything  
**by prayer** and  
 supplication with  
 thanksgiving let  
**your requests**  
 be made  
 known to God.

Philippians 4:6



For I know  
 the plans I have  
 for you,  
 declares the LORD,  
 plans for welfare  
 and not for evil,  
 to give you a future  
*and a hope.*

Jeremiah 29:11







## **JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

- |             |                               |
|-------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>6/3</b>  | <b>Donna McConnell</b>        |
| <b>6/6</b>  | <b>Larry Rudisill</b>         |
| <b>6/23</b> | <b>Teresa Kelley-Brownell</b> |
| <b>6/24</b> | <b>Dorothy Burton</b>         |
| <b>6/25</b> | <b>Ann Danek</b>              |
| <b>6/29</b> | <b>Kenneth Fine</b>           |

**Congratulations to all our June celebrants!**



# JUNE



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 Birthday! Donna McConnell	4	5	6 Birthday! Larry Rudisill
7 Sunday Drive-in Worship 10:00 am	8 Council Meeting 6:00 pm	9	10	11	12	13
14 Sunday Drive-in Worship 10:00 am	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Sunday Drive-in Worship 10:00 am FATHER'S DAY	22	23 Birthday! Teresa Kelley- Brownell	24 Birthday! Dorothy Burton	25 Birthday! Ann Danek	26	27
28 Sunday Drive-in Worship 10:00 am	29 Birthday! Kenneth Fine	30				

