

Letter of May 6

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I have been thinking a lot about our children and youth these days. They are missing out on Sunday School, Confirmation, in-person school and school-related activities, spring sports, chess tournaments, prom, choir and band concerts; scholarship, honor society and graduation events. Many of these things must be hard for them to miss. They are events and activities that most of us were able to enjoy when we were young. Yet this year, if they are happening at all, they are happening virtually or in some social-distancing format.

Confirmation Sunday has been postponed, too. This is always a very special worship service/celebration for the confirmands and the entire assembly. In addition to church members attending worship on Confirmation Sunday, many extended family members and guests join us on that day. Partly because we will certainly go over the maximum number of 50-persons gathered, Confirmation Sunday has been moved to October 31, 2020 (Reformation Sunday).

Our four eighth graders, and one sixth grader in Confirmation have worked very hard this year. They have completed homework assignments on the Book of Genesis and the curriculum for the Old Testament. They have memorized the books of the Old Testament, "The Lord's Prayer," "The Apostles' Creed," "The Ten Commandments" and several Bible verses. They have met via phone or online formats with their mentors and participated in service projects. I hope you will join me in thanking them and their mentors Ayawyn Conner (Carolyn Dougherty, mentor), Vanessa Anderson (Sarah Gruen, mentor), Marah Gruen (Ann Anderson, mentor), Bria Gruen (Joel Arndt, mentor) and Brooklyn Gruen (Lori Arndt, mentor). The mentors' weekly meetings with their mentees during the Lenten Season helped the Confirmation students to understand "The Ten Commandments" in greater detail.

I have heard that some of our children and youth have been coloring or drawing pictures during this time of Safer-At-Home. I would like to invite them to share some of their artwork with us! If any of the children and youth have created pictures showing what they have been doing during this time, please send a copy to Nalani at the church office, or take a photo (or have your parent take a photo) of your drawing and email it to the church email address. We will share some of the pictures with others in the congregation. If you have not created any artwork and would like to have a subject, you are welcome to read an upcoming gospel passage and create a drawing or coloring about that passage that we can send with the weekly bulletin.

As always, I encourage the assembly to pray for our children and youth by using the W-ELCA prayer (please contact Nalani if you need a copy). We are thankful for all of our young people and hope that in this time, you will not only feel the love of your immediate family but your church family, too.

Blessings and peace,
Pastor Cathy

P.S. I received a beautiful May Day basket, but I do not know who my secret gift giver(s) may be. If it is you or your family, please know that I appreciate your thoughtfulness!

May 17

John 14:15-21

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

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May 24

**John 17:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples], he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup>since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup>And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup>I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup>So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

<sup>6</sup>“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup>Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; <sup>8</sup>for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup>I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup>All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup>And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

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May 31

John 20:19-23

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

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June 7

Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”