Dear CNH Brothers and Sisters,

Like so many of you, I have been watching, listening, praying, sheltering in place, and now during these past 12 days, praying some more , and lamenting. I have badly wanted to give an explanation, but the prescription is not mine to make. I have striven to speak words of healing, but I am not the healer for the moment.

 However, as I speak to my CNH brothers and sisters who live in a very diverse world yet find it tempting to simply retreat to their place of comfort, I’d like to share a few words that I have found helpful. There is a lot to take in as you read the links below, even though this letter to you is short. Read one or two at a time and then return to them again. My encouragement and prayer for you is this:

* Strive to remain humble and in a listening posture with those who have a different cultural narrative than you (listen, ask, and then listen again)
* Rather than move too quickly through the cycle of remorse, repentance, forgiveness, forget, might I suggest you linger in the repentance/ forgiveness portion of this cycle. While you are there, consider your own contribution to the world, specifically the United States’ ongoing challenge with racism. MAybeyou feel you have not behaved in a racist manner ( I tend to believe I am largely innocent), but … “Oh Lord, from my position of privilege, how often have I failed to act or speak or write? Oh Lord, have mercy upon me, upon our church's, upon our nation and our world.”
* I pray that God would not allow you to dismiss the cries of our black brothers’ and sisters’ unique history of pain, struggle, and yes even anger.
* Listen carefully to the narrative, seek to understand.
* Pray for God’s justice, his changing of hearts and minds, and for his healing of hearts.
* Act as a citizen of the Kingdom of heaven and a child of God.

By the way, before you read on, remember these three things about our Lord Jesus.

1. He is the one who ultimately grants justice and beets mercy.
2. He is the one who walked humbly to the cross.
3. He sends his Spirit to live and work powerfully within his people.

Now some words and links that may be helpful and powerful for you to read.

1. From Byrene Keith Haney, Iowa West Executive and an LCMS African American Pastor: [*Racial Healing Begins with Recognizing Our Neighbor*](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001aagEQsarXy0w8QiQf_kfs-g0CijshUy_cVFMmud2BvMb0YHHIZHAzh0pFa5rfOhM2PFnZ0gKVk4imC5WEKuCjKCgbsvWmSGY92st7Z6-gqGWQabgUV-xaBLhd7QQnMb24zjHHTTzM8kDWMYlbIbCNTxUV2V97yhkav5IgpY9jOMdGbQy5GB72TSjBbz1kLR_17-wglctCYrK-cmCE7VvVtxbEcvSBGIH&c=a9ADOGBqrMYerSmq2quh9gSfNtySMympk-nKi9sxdWdlKvZmGc1NjA==&ch=mV37WGSRDyzyvCYxs7ByAr2eLQ7REI7Ipt7gpXfuK-1GMUnTFuDN4w==)*.*
2. From the LCMS Black Caucus (penned by Pastor Warren Lattimore): [*Black Clergy Caucus Statement on George Floyd*](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001aagEQsarXy0w8QiQf_kfs-g0CijshUy_cVFMmud2BvMb0YHHIZHAzh0pFa5rfOhMaC3kjoVWy7pbtvgdixeAZxtX8jmdS9nFTIHxk256drdwbS6ugZZSuqDhMWZdqZUG7uEYWu8q1IFMM2c5q__fQh2Se7tyDFZkJG1XLQOC7Zc3K4KnadO66XOtjEzcnnFTa8WdLWvMo5153TDaJtEG-wHMmRWbYh4H0bg1XwUqbePpqSbak3h4NVf0cl-CR5xJ_LP_FyjTBGteSeKwqeGZGHMQHNhBYMED-F1FdjhxZrMk-JAGVtbx4asBKUL6l-I6XVbGnZ_OXOs=&c=a9ADOGBqrMYerSmq2quh9gSfNtySMympk-nKi9sxdWdlKvZmGc1NjA==&ch=mV37WGSRDyzyvCYxs7ByAr2eLQ7REI7Ipt7gpXfuK-1GMUnTFuDN4w==).
3. And this one, which will challenge you, but if you listen and read with Jesus’ heart may be particularly helpful: [*My White Friend Asked Me on Facebook to Explain White Privilege. I Decided to Be Honest*](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001aagEQsarXy0w8QiQf_kfs-g0CijshUy_cVFMmud2BvMb0YHHIZHAzh0pFa5rfOhMiXUxyP2wuaMBM1_tJPoGBnNiniUa61m7o9hc08-E18DqgiPh1xOsSU-jJ458htFtwHsv5SptjHmV20t7FIx3p1-VbFWZyB_oEJNDO2I2daP26FoZI5S7K_E-IUcofUNpkOxWnTMRiCu9NqbtWzTuDw6koi5CwgQDgWk3VJssLZ-0SBN5MMT-FB2LJscU7CJ8PhYbbSlmktDCcd1GnNpBTx5Ww1cLrLHCmyepgCmKTxKMjdKLC21u7A==&c=a9ADOGBqrMYerSmq2quh9gSfNtySMympk-nKi9sxdWdlKvZmGc1NjA==&ch=mV37WGSRDyzyvCYxs7ByAr2eLQ7REI7Ipt7gpXfuK-1GMUnTFuDN4w==).
4. From President Matthew Harrison, LCMS Synodical President: [*Statement on the death of George Floyd and the ensuing riots*](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001aagEQsarXy0w8QiQf_kfs-g0CijshUy_cVFMmud2BvMb0YHHIZHAzsA6_UX48O6sElRO_SoUmc-Avy7iijBzwQ__untWRfTfPkOi7qbl9iHH6GZMpFLQHeX2mv396FbDw7wGqxKiEVOscPnpxwB1bY3EqXqeWr2arCpOYShtg8KDezgN9ZrVKnCMwCHuYZCNjEEzE8xNPN_slSkmhbRxtRwNmYiL8XuN-ENMhb09Uks=&c=a9ADOGBqrMYerSmq2quh9gSfNtySMympk-nKi9sxdWdlKvZmGc1NjA==&ch=mV37WGSRDyzyvCYxs7ByAr2eLQ7REI7Ipt7gpXfuK-1GMUnTFuDN4w==).

Serving humbly, choosing joy! Praying fervently! Michael Lange



**CNH Regional Missions**

1.Prayers for children's ministries as they carefully reopen to serve essential worker families.  May they all remain safe and continue to be agents of the love of Jesus.

2. Prayers for CNH worship groups/congregations that are struggling financially through this time where attendance and participation is so limited.

**3.Prayers as congregations and preschools begin to reopen and set plans for reopening throughout the district. Prayers of wisdom and discernment for pastors, administrators, committees, and lay worshipers as plans move forward.**

4. Pray for Canaan Lutheran San Francisco, (Chinese language ministry) as they pursue a new pastor to head up their congregation at the retirement of their long-term pastor, David Tin.

5. International Mission Prayers - for Herb and Markie Burch, success in their pre-school ministry in Belize.  Herb and Markie were formerly at Grace Lutheran Church in Santa Maria.

6.Pray for Joel and Dawn Wahlers as they transition to full-time District staff in July of this year. Praise God that the principalship was filled at St. John’s Napa Lutheran School.

7. For the ever-expanding recovery programs at St. Philip in Dublin, CA. Pastor Brady asks that more connections will be made with the Gospel, as they have a unique arrangement allowing the church to be involved as ministers.

8.For mission worker Melissa Karges who will be leaving Ethiopia on June 19 for a long trip back to the US. Pray her flights remain as scheduled.

9.Candidates awaiting ordination, Chad Biar (St. John’s Fallon, NV), Muluah Tay (Addis Kidan SF, CA), Kyle Weeks (Light of the Hills Cameron Park, CA) and William Piece (St. Matthew’s Kauai, HI)

 **Prayer Communicator**

 **Cora**

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July Children’s Chat

 Greetings to you from Miss Sarah, Mrs. Tomac, and the Children of Faith Lutheran Church. Happy Summer! It seems as though the wind has decided to give us a little break….hopefully nothing but beautiful, warm Nevada days and gorgeous sunsets on the horizon. To say that the first half of 2020 has been a little “weird” would be a huge understatement.

 The children of Faith Lutheran missed out on in-person weekly meetings and tutoring sessions, BBQ at Murl and Ardell’s and VBS. Through it all, Miss Sarah and I made efforts to keep us connected. We posted weekly lessons on our Faith Lutheran Church website and our Facebook page. An interesting side-effect is the fact that our Facebook posts reached hundreds of kids!

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| ***We Love all our Students!*** |



Another change was the decision to do virtual VBS. Our theme this year was *Rainforest Explorers: Jesus Leads the Way!* Sarah and I planned out the format and personalized introductory videos for each day of VBS. We made 24 Virtual VBS Rainforest Packs full of craft supplies, snack ideas, and other fun treats. We were a little disappointed that we didn’t get more kids to register in advance, but we took our leftover packs and distributed them to families in the community. I think the lack of participation is simply oversaturation of kids and technology. Summer is the time for kids to be out and about! We are hopeful that the families that participated will connect with us and begin to attend Children’s Church in the Fall!

 Both Miss Sarah and I look forward to being able to have in-person meetings, tutoring, VBS, BBQs at Murl and Ardell’s house, Christmas and Easter Programs, and everything else that makes connecting with, and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with them and their families such a wonderful blessing!

 Miss Sarah and I, along with help from some of our older kids, are planning to hold a yard sale to raise money for our youth program. We’re shooting for the first part of August to hold our sale. More information to come.

 May the LORD richly bless you this summer! Please continue to keep our youth programs in your prayers as we stretch out to reach kids who need to be shown the awesome love of Jesus!

*Sincerely Serving,*

Miss Sarah and Mrs. Tomac

 

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| **Birthday blessings**3. Laura Tomac15. Ardy Schacht29. Ardell Smith30. Gigi Neal  |

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|  **COUNCIL NOTES****\***May Attendance avg 31.**\***74 communed.**\***The office remodel plans will be moving forward shortly.**\***Council is meeting to discuss plans for a future pastor.  |

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|  **Events** 4. Ice cream social 8pm6. Church Council 6pm10. Men's breakfast 7am16. Women's Bible study 10:30 |

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| **Garwood Library Spotlight** **The Shack by** **Wm. Paul Young** Mackenzie Allen Phillips youngest daughter, Missy, has been abducted during a family vacation and evidence that she may have been brutally murdered is found in an abandoned Shack deep in the Oregon Wilderness. Four years later, in the midst of his great sadness, Mack received a suspicious note, apparently from God, inviting him back to that Shack for a weekend.Against his better judgment he arrives at The Shack on a wintry afternoon and walks back into his darkest nightmare. What he finds there will change Mack’s world forever. In a world where religion seems to grow increasingly irrelevant the Shack wrestles with the Timeless question: where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable pain? The answers Mack gets will astound you and perhaps transform you as much as it did him. You'll want everyone you know to read this book! |
| **Check me out!**  |

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| **“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,** **the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!”** **Psalm 33:12**  |

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 **A Note from the Elder**

Greetings Faith Family, Wow! It just seems like things are getting more unsettled and crazy in this world each and every day. These are trying times and each day it seems like a new moral or ethical challenge being faced by our society. What are we to do as “Followers Loving Christ” here at Faith Lutheran?

First of all, we should not be discouraged or be surprised. God told us that we will have trials and difficulties in this world. But He also told us that He would be with us to see us through them. Perhaps we should view each challenge as a test of our faithfulness to God and His word? It appears that fear is gripping this country, whether it be the virus, riots, loss of jobs, illness, etc… But, we are told in 2 Timothy 1:7- “God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind”. We are not to fear the changes or the future, but instead approach them with a “sound mind”, claiming God's power to help us in His love.

I like to look at some of the examples that have been set for us right here in our own congregation by those who have stayed free of fear as they faced death. Ann Fortier, Phoebe Ervin, Jim Maser, and most recently Audrey Doerr all come to mind. I especially feel a loss because we have not been able to really say goodbye to Jim and Audrey by way of a funeral service. However, each one of these individuals showed confident faith in the face of death, and they were certain and unwavering of their salvation in Jesus Christ! What an amazing example and encouragement to the rest of us!

### Despite their circumstances, they all stayed “steady on the course” and remained faithful. That is most certainly our task right now in these difficult times. We should NOT fall victim to temptation to fall away or be gripped by fear. But “steady the course” by remaining connected to God through our support system here at Faith Lutheran. Be an example of steady faith to others, share the “good news” with others in our community and invite them to accompany you to church and Bible study. God Bless, Steve

Blessings!

###  **German Potato Salad**

### **Ingredients**

2 pounds Yukon gold potatoes

1/2 pound thick-cut bacon

3/4 cup finely chopped onion

1/3 cup white vinegar

1/4 cup sugar

1 tablespoon Dijon mustard

1 teaspoon salt

2 tablespoons minced chives, for garnish

**Directions**

1. Boil potatoes in a Medium pot of salted water for about 15 to 20 minutes until soft. Drain and slice into 1/4-inch rounds.
2. Cook the bacon in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Until crisp. Drain on a paper towel. Pour off the rendered fat, reserving 1/4 cup in the pan. Turn the heat to medium and add the onion. Cook until just beginning to brown, about 4 to 5 minutes.
3. Whisk in the vinegar, sugar, mustard, and salt and stir until thick and bubbly. Add the sliced, cooked potatoes and toss to coat. Top with the crumbled bacon and garnish with the chives. Serve warm.

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| **Faith Lutheran Church**www.faithlutheran.infoWorship Service8am Sunday Communion: 2nd & 4th Sundays Children's church Recessed for summerTutoring Recessed for summerBible studyWednesday 6pmContact Phone NumbersGigi Neal Secretary Charles HicksHead Elder775-224-1792Steve Tomac Elder775-750-1579Sarah Weishaar DCE831-320-2686 |