

The Echo

August 2020



We Need God

"I am needy." We don't like that statement much, do we? It is fine and dandy to be needy when we are young. In fact, we expect it from babies, toddlers, and young children. But somewhere along the line, it becomes less and less "ok" to show our struggles. Just when does that happen?

As adults, we are expected to function perfectly all the time. At work, we are asked to perform and produce, working well overtime to "get the job done right." At home we must cook, clean, and maintain the home while educating and entertaining the family. And then, even when we are alone and notice we are down, we so often tell ourselves to "shape up," "buck up," or "just get over it." But some things you can't just "get over." When someone dies, when you lose your job, when a loved one makes choices that hurt, when the news wears you down, when you're in the fourth month of a pandemic with cases on the rise... And don't forget our everyday needs: food, sleep, shelter, companionship, and stability.

The fact is, there are things in life that we need. We are needy. Not necessarily clingy, incapable, lazy, or entitled, but we are *in need* of the grace, peace, love, and rest of God.

We sometimes think we are wrong to be needy, but this is not so. In fact, God created us with his needs such that "God's power could be made perfect through our weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9). The truth is, it is in our moments of failure, in our moments of need, in our moments of pain, that we realize we need God the most.

It is good to recognize our needs, for it is then that we see our need for God.

All of this is to say, I do not want any of us to stay in a place of need forever. We cannot stay tired, grieved, alone, afraid, or unempowered forever. Remember the promises of scripture:

- Philippians 4:19-20 reminds us, "God will fully supply your every need according to his glorious riches through Christ Jesus Our Lord."
- Psalm 40:17 says, "God, you are my helper and my savior. O my God, do not delay."
- And Psalm 27:5 says, "He will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock."

Friends in Christ do not despair, even in a moment of need. The Lord sees your needs and longs to comfort you "as a mother hen covers her chicks with her wings" (Matthew 23:37). Take a moment to identify your needs and ask the Lord for help. And if you happen to be in a place where you feel able

to help another, ask the Lord how you can help others. In this way, by the grace of God, we will encourage, admonish, and build one another up until the day the Lord returns (1 Thessalonians 5:11). It is "ok" to be needy. We are all needy. We all need God. Peace, Intern Pr. Meggie



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EVENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS!



Confirmation will be held at Emmanuel Lutheran on August 2nd for the following three youth: Carli Niemi, Teddy Flaa, and Madison Syvertsen. Please keep these three youth in your prayers as they confirm their faith. Congratulations!



Our weekly sermons are broadcast on Facebook Live.

For those of you not on Facebook, the video broadcasts can also be found by going to our website, <http://galchuttemmanuel.weebly.com> and clicking on Events tab, and Video Broadcasts.



After much prayer and consideration, the ELCA has decided to postpone the ELCA Youth Gathering "Boundless, God Beyond Measure," originally scheduled for July 2021. This has been rescheduled to July 24-28, 2022, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Youth Gathering will be held in Minneapolis in 2022.

ECHO SPONSORSHIP FORM

Thank you for all the support we have had for the Echo. If you are interested in sponsoring an issue, please fill out the below form. Sponsorships for November & December 2020 and February 2021 and forward are available.

Checks can be sent to *Galchutt Church, c/o Kendra Dockter, 16860 70th St SE, Colfax, ND 58018.*

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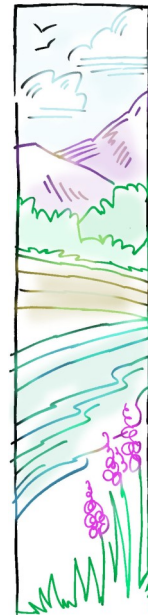
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If you have an announcement for an event or photos from a baptism, wedding, or some other special event regarding a member or former member of our parish, we would love to include the information in an upcoming issue. Please email them to lalee@rrt.net.



It is hard to believe that summer is officially already almost half over. In December when we brainstormed for themes for the 2020 Echo newsletters, we had no idea that some of them would be so relevant to our present time. This month's chosen theme is, "What do you need - From God or from the community." My guess is that most of us would now say "a return to a normal life – without COVID!" Things have not yet returned to normal but we are slowly learning to cope with this new life. We have slowly returned to in-person church services and are waiting to hear how schools will operate in the coming weeks. As we face some of these difficult decisions and situations, the best (and sometimes the hardest) thing we can do is turn it over to God. As much as we like to be in control, we must try to turn our troubles over to Him who can make all things good. We need to give up our right to understanding everything. "And we know that in all things, God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28 NIV). We can trust that He is with us through every challenge we face, and we are ultimately going to come out stronger in the end. Enjoy the rest of your summer.



*We know
that all
things work
together
for good for
those who
love God....*

Romans 8:28

Lou Ann Lee

God amid pandemic

Last spring, life changed as we became familiar with terms such as social distancing, flattening the curve and self-quarantining. We could hardly believe the closed schools, businesses and especially churches — just as Holy Week and Easter drew near! The coronavirus ran rampant in the world. Where was God?

But as the spread continued, many civic leaders stepped up, calmly informing us of the facts, of actions being taken to mitigate the crisis and of how we could help. Healthcare professionals risked their lives and endured separation from families; teachers drew on astounding stores of creativity to teach online; pastors delivered sermons and lessons to empty sanctuaries as members listened and prayed while living in lockdown. Surely God was present — through them!

Then I remembered how God assures us through Isaiah, "Fear not! When you pass through the waters, the fires, yes, even the pandemics of this world, I will be with you" (43:1-2, paraphrased). And Jesus echoes, "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20).

—Sandy Hyland



The rhythm of rest

Does God indeed need to rest? Of course not! But did God choose to rest? Yes. Why? Because God subjected creation to a rhythm of rest and work that he revealed by observing the rhythm himself, as a precedent for everyone else. In this way, he showed us a key to order in our private worlds.

—Gordon MacDonald, Chancellor of Denver Seminary

LWR News

In spite of taking time off for the pandemic we have been sewing quilts and gathered to finish in June and July to finish 25 quilts so far this year. With the generous donations coming in we will have many more for the fall ingathering. We will welcome all helping hands at our next meeting on August 11 from 9 to 3 or let me know when you are available and I will make sure that we can work out another more suitable time to finish quilts for shipment.

Many LWR quilters and kit makers in the US have been busy at home during the pandemic. I have recently read of sewers making 10-30 and more quilt tops to be assembled and finished when the workers can meet together. The Spring ingatherings were canceled or postponed in most areas so the warehouses will be happy to receive our supplies when delivery is possible this fall. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Ellen Rittenhouse

Patient attention, valuable discoveries

For many people, the coronavirus pandemic has been a test of patience — or worse. Medically vulnerable people face an anxious time of hypervigilance. Furloughed workers wait on hold or in lines for assistance. Special events have been canceled or rescheduled.

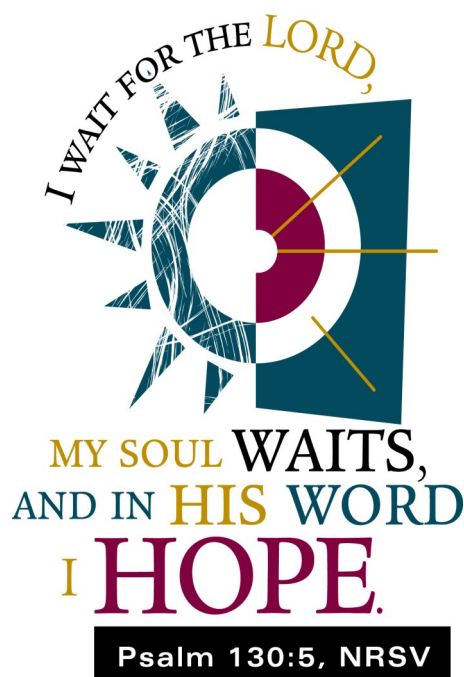
Those not impacted directly deal with assorted frustrations and inconveniences. Many people are learning the benefit of slowing down, being present (even virtually) to others and practicing patient attention.

Interestingly, scientist Isaac Newton did some of his best work when the plague forced Cambridge University to close. At home, the inquisitive student invented calculus and developed groundbreaking theories of gravity and optics. Later Newton called 1666 his *annus mirabilis* (“year of wonders”) and reportedly said, “If I have made any valuable discoveries, it [owes] more to patient attention than to any other talent.”

What have you discovered during the Covid-19 crisis? What appreciations have you developed for aspects of life you may have previously taken for granted? What has social distancing taught you about the value of neighbors, church, community volunteering?

During the pandemic, what have you learned about persistence and God’s presence? What empathy do you now feel for writers of words such as “I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope” (Psalm 130:5, NIV)?

(Taken from NewsletterNewsletter)



Galchutt Lutheran Council Highlights—July 13, 2020



The Galchutt Church Council met on July 13th at 6:30 PM at Galchutt Lutheran Church. Members present were Pamela Krump, Alex Paczkowski, Doug Johnson, Daniel Dockter, Marissa Moxness, and Intern Pastor Meggie. Pastor Meggie started the meeting with a devotion and prayer. Alex read last month secretary's report, Doug approved, and Marissa seconded. There was no treasurer's report. The mower had an electrical issue and is now fixed. There is no VBS but working on possible dates for kids to get together for a lesson and a short program. There will be a joint service celebrating Pastor Meggie in September for graduating seminary school. Rally Sunday is scheduled for September 13th. Sunday services are now in-person with the usual summer crowd. Joint online services with Richland/Our Saviors are no longer provided but Pastor Meggie has started to live stream our services on Facebook. First Communion class has been rescheduled, with the first communion given on Rally Sunday. Pastor Meggie will start visiting nursing homes and assisted living residents again. The Synod assembly has been rescheduled for August 14-16 online. There will be no service on August 16th because of the Synod Assembly. Pastor Meggie will record her sermon. There will be no service July 26th as Pastor Meggie is on vacation. Council decided to keep the propane on summer fill instead of keep full during winter. The council reviewed the Synod Authorized Minister contract for Pastor Meggie. Doug made a motion to approve the contract and Alex seconded. Daniel made a motion to adjourn with Alex second. Ended the meeting with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting is scheduled for August 10th at 6:30 PM at Galchutt Lutheran Church.

Alex Paczkowski, secretary

We keep the following in our prayers:

- ◆ Betty Syvertsen as she recovers from a recent illness and hospital stay;
- ◆ Micah Moxness and Vicki Moen, as they deal with health issues;
- ◆ Our school teachers and students as they prepare to start a new school year;
- ◆ Our church councils as they lead our congregations;
- ◆ Those leading the ELCA as they prepare for the Eastern North Dakota Synod gathering;
- ◆ Our farmers as they commence the busy harvest season; and
- ◆ All those who suffer from illness, addiction, or the loss of a loved one, and those we silently name in our hearts.



... 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

Thank you to the following for their recent donations:

St. John's Cemetery Fund

- In memory of Tom Hansen
- ⇒ Mike & Sylvia Myers





Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1
2 Galchutt 9 AM Worship Emmanuel 10:30 AM Worship	3	4	5 AA Mtg 7PM @ Emmanuel	6	7	8
9 Galchutt 9 AM Worship Emmanuel 10:30 AM Worship	10 Galchutt Council Mtg 6 PM	11 Emmanuel Council Mtg 6:30 PM Quilting @ Emmanuel 9AM-3PM	12 AA Mtg 7PM @ Emmanuel	13	14	15
16 No worship services	17 RRQ QOV @ Emmanuel 1-7 PM		19 AA Mtg 7PM @ Emmanuel	20	21	22
23 Galchutt 9 AM Worship Emmanuel 10:30 AM Worship	24	25	26 AA Mtg 7PM @ Emmanuel	27	28	29
30 Galchutt 9 AM Worship Emmanuel 10:30 AM Worship	31					

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The Echo

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Just for Laughs.....

