

THE SERVANT

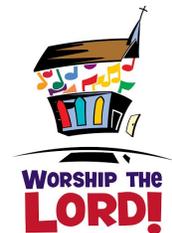
The monthly newsletter of Servants of Christ Lutheran Church, a congregation of The North American Lutheran Church serving the Cedar Rapids area

Meeting at Robins City Hall Community Room, 265 South Second St., Robins, Iowa 52328
Worship: 9:00 am; Fellowship & Coffee: 10:00;
Bible Class and Sunday School: 10:15
Ron Voss, Pastor

*****June 2020

Dear servant of Christ,

Corporate worship at Servants of Christ resumed on Sunday, May 3. It is *good* to again gather as God's people to worship and praise Him. It is so *good* to again see each other face to face, even with social distancing.



Sunday, June 7, we will begin (finally) our new study class based on a book by Max Lucado, "It's Not About Me." It will be *good* to resume our study time together.

Sunday, June 28, our study class time will discuss on issues that are important to you. Christian faith, your personal faith walk? you wonder about the congregational life in especially how they have handled the lock-Any and all questions are welcome. Just that might involve some research, please more than happy to do the research, but I brain does not operate on a Google format.



be replaced by an hour dis- Have questions about the Share them on the 28th. Do other NALC congregations, down? By all means, ask. one note: If it is a question ask me before the 28th. I am readily acknowledge my

Continue to pray for our congregations and for all members of North American Lutheran Church parishes. Pray for strength, for faithfulness, for the hope and joy that is found only in Christ.

In His love,
Ron



*Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices;
Who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices.
Who, from our mother's arms, has blessed us on our way,
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

Perhaps you know the story that led to the writing of this beloved hymn. German pastor Martin Rinkart served in the walled town of Eilenburg during the horrors of the Thirty Years War of 1618-1648. Eilenburg became an overcrowded refuge for the surrounding area. The fugitives suffered from epidemic and famine. Rinkart, as the only surviving pastor, conducted 4,480 funerals in these years, including the funeral for his wife. In the face of overwhelming pressure, constant risk and horrendous conditions, Rinkart never stopped ministering to the people of his city. He gave away nearly everything he owned to the poor and needy, though he could barely clothe and feed his own children.

After nearly thirty years of ceaseless struggles, it began to look like peace was within grasp. Wanting to give his children a song to sing to God in thanks at the dinner table, Rinkart sat down and composed what would become one of the most well-known Thanksgiving hymns of all time: "Now Thank We All Our God." In fact, it's been said that, aside from Martin Luther's "A Mighty Fortress," no other song is sung more often in Lutheran churches today than Rinkart's simple tune.

Whether you are able to gather as a congregation in a sanctuary or you are still sheltering at home, I would encourage you to look at this hymn and be reminded under what conditions this song of praise and gratitude was written. In a few short months, the United States has confronted health challenges few Americans have seen before. The economy is only beginning to reveal the long-term devastation that is ahead. Our society has been locked down with no access to education, employment, shopping, travel . . . and worship. As for Pastor Rinkart 400 years ago, everything is in seeming chaos, yet Christians today are still able to proclaim, "Now thank we all our God . . . who wondrous things has done." Like Pastor Rinkart, in the coming weeks and months, we can praise God with good stewardship of our time and abilities to serve our families, our communities, our churches. Like Pastor Rinkart, we can be faithful in worship, prayer, and study. And like Pastor Rinkart, we need to be faithful stewards of our treasures. Our local congregations and the NALC need everyone's financial tithes and offerings to maintain and expand ministry and provide assistance to the many in need due to loss of health and employment.

*Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed;
And free us from all harm in this world and the next.*

Now thank we all our God

But my God shall supply
all your need according
to his riches in glory
by Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:19

June Mission Giving

- **\$500: The North American Lutheran Church General Fund
- **\$1,000: The North American Lutheran Seminary



A big thank you to
Lenore Heckart
for sewing
MASKS
for members and
for the community
at large.

It's Not About Me by Max Lucado Begins June 7

What would change if we finally found our place . . . and lived it? For our entire lives we've been urged to look out for number one. To find our place in the sun and soak it for all it's worth. To make a name for ourselves as if we are the headliners in life's drama.

But what happens when the sweet life we imagined proves to be sour? When our expensive toys break and our work is no longer needed and our bodies grow soft? What's next when all our efforts to take care of number one leave us feeling unsatisfied and the thrills we were promised turn up empty?

Best-selling author Max Lucado turns the greatest lie we've believed on its head . . . The one that says, "It's all about me," and he sets our sights on a different goal. What would happen if we all took our place and played our parts? If we started living like "Son" reflectors rather than individual stars and suns? If every person's priority became a divine pursuit, not a performance?

The God-centered life works. And it rescues us from a life that doesn't. Here is your lifeline to a life of purpose. Grab hold and let the rescue begin!