SEA NOTES

A Monthly Publication of Shepherd of the Sea **JUNE 2020**
201 East Fort Macon Road, Atlantic Beach, NC 28512 www.soselca.org

Pastor's Page

At the same time pray for us as well that God will open to us a door for the word, that we may declare the mystery of Christ, for which I am in prison…(Colossians 4:3)

Plan to Re-gather

The words from Colossians written above come from Paul while he is imprisoned (although his authorship of this letter is disputed). They are words to which we can perhaps relate. These last two months of isolation have often felt like prison, but now we are beginning to see signs of life returning to our beaches, restaurants, and stores.

So what about the church?

We are making plans to gather in person as soon as we can while taking steps to lessen the risk to the most vulnerable among us. I have been in consultation with our congregational council and together, we would like to see several things happen before gathering together in person:

- Adhere to the guidance of the CDC, which is the federal agency that deals with viruses and pandemics. The CDC has released guidelines for how churches can re-open, and can be found on their website: **https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/**
- Adhere to our state's recommendations for re-opening. As of this writing (May 26) we are in phase 2 of our state's re-opening plan, which recommends that there be no inside gatherings of no more than 10 people. The Governor has said that he expects we will be in this phase for 4-6 weeks.
- Adhere to our Synod's recommendations for gathering again. The Synod currently recommends all church buildings remain closed. We expect the Synod Council to release additional guidelines in the coming days.
- We do not see a spike of cases in Carteret County. In the last week, beach traffic has picked up significantly, and from what I've seen, there is very little mask wearing and social distancing. If there is to be a spike in cases from this influx of tourists, it may show up in 2-4 weeks. We are going to continue to monitor the situation for spikes in hospitalizations.

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All of these mean that we are possibly looking at the end of June or the beginning of July to gather again. Of course, that could change depending on what happens between now and then. Things might go better than expected and we can gather earlier than July, or things might not go better and it will take longer. Regardless, we are still the church, and we are still doing the work of the church.

It is important to understand that when we do gather again, whenever that is, we cannot guarantee safety from the virus. We will do our best to mitigate the risk, but some risk will remain.

We realize that some think the church should be open now, while others won't be back for a while even after the church re-opens its doors. We will still continue to have some sort of online worship experience for those who do not feel comfortable gathering in person, and we will practice social distancing for those who do gather with us.

In the meantime, in the words of Colossians, pray for us, that God will open a door for us and we may declare the mystery of Christ.

Grace + Peace,
Pastor Scott

CHURCH HAPPENINGS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us on the Web!

Join Pastor Scott for worship on either our Facebook page or on our YouTube channel. Simply search for 'Shepherd of the Sea Lutheran Church Atlantic Beach NC' within Facebook or YouTube. New videos post on Sundays at 9 am. You can also join us on Zoom for a virtual coffee hour after worship at 11 am on Sundays - email Pastor Scott for the Zoom link if you are interested.

Charity Focus This Month

Every few months, we are going to have a charity that we want to focus on, and this month we are proud to support **Loretta Jimenez.** Loretta is an inmate at Women's Prison in Raleigh. We are collecting funds to buy her some snacks and coffee that she is allowed to request once per quarter. If you would like to donate, simply write "Loretta" in the memo line of your check and drop it in the weekly offering.

Giving and Expenses—May 2020

Donations received	9,271.89
Expenses	12,827.31

Annual Congregational Meeting

Our 2020 Congregational Meeting is postponed indefinitely due to COVID-19. A decision on a meeting date will be determined at a later date.

Servant Schedule

There is no servant schedule for April due to COVID-19.

Social Media Outreach—Last Month

People reached through our Facebook page
616

Facebook likes, comments, and shares
478

Videos watched on our Facebook page
815

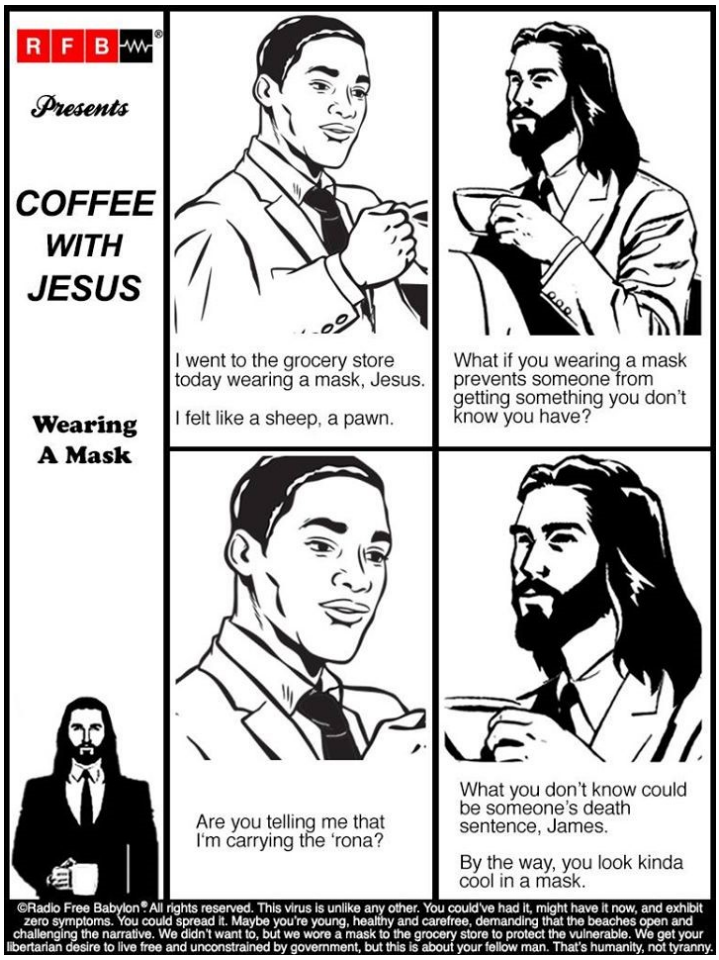
Visits to our website
142

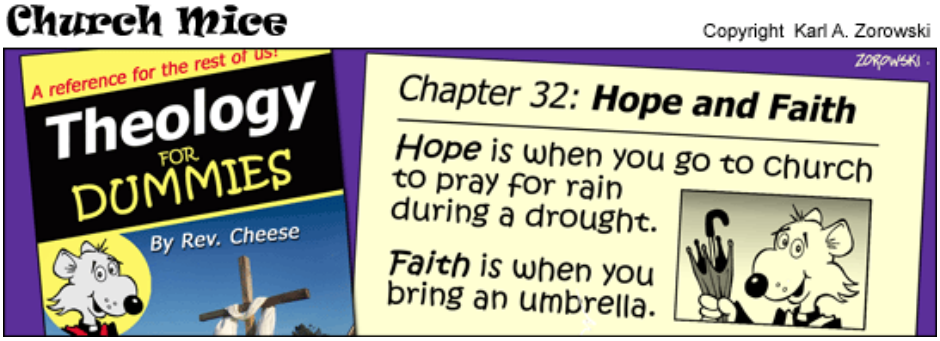
Videos watched on our YouTube channel
525

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JUNE

Color of the Day	June 7 Holy Trinity	June 14 Pentecost 2	June 21 Pentecost 3	June 28 Pentecost 4	Color of the Day
First Reading	Genesis 1:1-2:4a	Exodus 19:2-8a	Jeremiah 20:7-13	Jeremiah 28:5-9	First Reading
Psalm	8	100	69:7-18	89:1-4, 15-18	Psalm
Second Reading	2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Romans 5:1-8	Romans 6:1b-11	Romans 6:12-23	Second Reading
Gospel	Matt 28:16-20	Matt 9:35-10:8	Matt 10:24-39	Matt 10:40-42	Gospel

CHURCH FUNNIES





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