



SEA NOTES

A Monthly Publication of Shepherd of the Sea

201 East Fort Macon Road, Atlantic Beach, NC 28512 www.soselca.org

JULY 2020



*God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult. (Psalm 46:1-3)*

Missing Church

Whenever I speak with a church member, invariably I hear about how they miss church and wish we could gather again soon. I share those same sentiments. Despite being an introvert and enjoying alone time, I too find myself missing church, sharing communion, and laughing and singing together.

And yet I know that to open now could be catastrophic. It would just take one person who does not know they have the virus to infect as many as twenty people. I am now at the place where I know families and friends of friends who have caught the virus. One has died and a few others are or were on ventilators and very sick. We must stay vigilant. We must wear our masks, wash our hands, and social distance so all this can be over as soon as possible.

Being caught between a rock and a hard place is nothing new to the people of God, and Jesus even promises trials and tribulations for his followers. In times such as these, I find it helpful to turn to the Psalms. In Psalm 46, we hear words of warmth – God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. This pandemic is terrible, but God presently provides help in the following ways:

We all have ready access to life-saving masks and equipment.

We have very smart people who understand the biology of viruses working on a vaccine.

We have each other, to provide encouragement, support, and love.

All of these things are at work even when the doors of the church are locked. So even when the mountains shake and the seas roar and the virus infections rise, we are in God's mighty hands, and we are not forgotten or forsaken.

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.

Servant Schedule

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

Where Does the Church Stand Financially?

From April 1 through July 8 of this year, the church had income of \$53,056 while expenses during this time have totaled \$41,388. That looks great, but this includes the PPP government loan we received – that we are currently working on getting forgiven – in the amount of \$19,700, which was used for payroll. That money is now gone, and without that help, our income was \$33,356. This results in a shortfall of \$8,032, which averages out to a shortfall of \$2,677 a month for the last three months.

We currently have \$14,226 in our checking account, \$34,000 in our reserve account, and \$370,783 in our endowment account. Projecting forward using these figures, we have enough in checking to last 5 months before we would have to dip into our reserves. We have enough in reserves to last an additional year before we would have to dip into our endowment, and we have enough to last an additional 11 years before that would run out!

As you can see, the church is not in danger of closing due to lack of funds, but we do need to stem the monthly drain as much as possible. Please consider an increase in giving, no matter how small, as you are able. Ministry is continuing even during the pandemic!

Social Media Outreach—Last Month

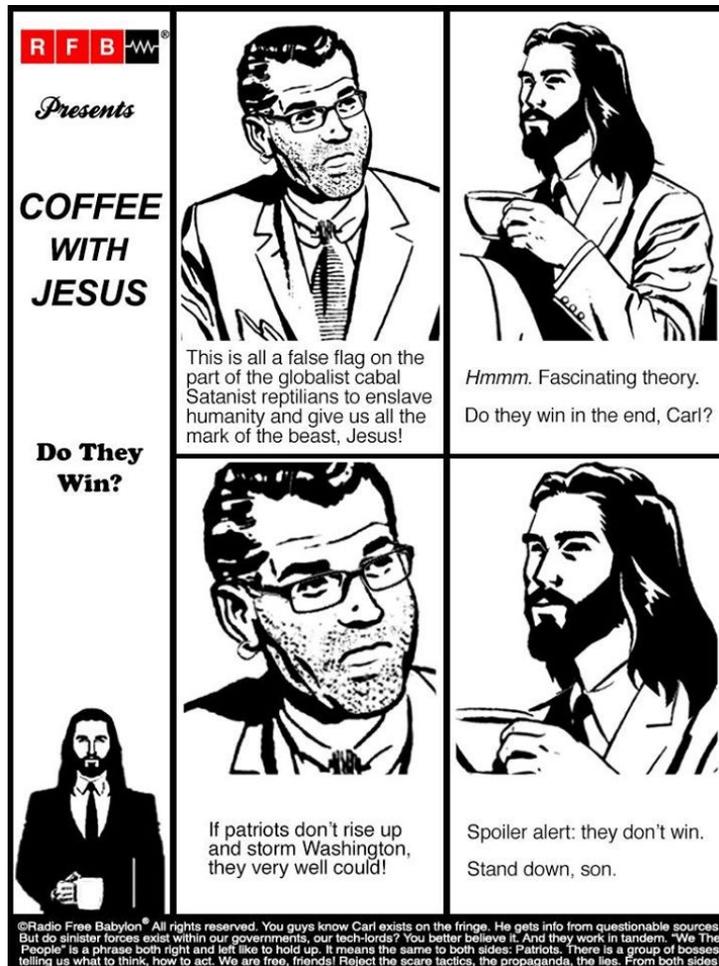
People reached through our Facebook page	557
Facebook likes, comments, and shares	379
Visits to our website	58



LECTIONARY READING FOR: JULY

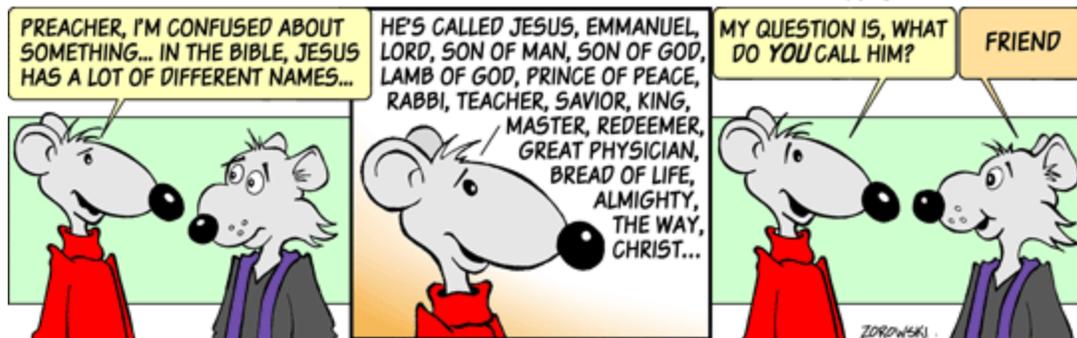
Color of the Day	July 5	July 12	July 19	July 26	Color of the Day
	Pentecost 5	Pentecost 6	Pentecost 7	Pentecost 8	
First Reading	Zechariah 9:9-12	Isaiah 55:10-13	Isaiah 44:6-8	1 Kings 3:5-12	First Reading
Psalm	145:8-14	65:9-13	86:11-17	119:129-136	Psalm
Second Reading	Romans 7:15-25a	Romans 8:1-11	Romans 8:12-25	Romans 8:26-39	Second Reading
Gospel	Matt 11:16-19, 25-30	Matt 13:1-9, 18-23	Matt 13:24-30, 36-43	Matt 13:31-33, 44-52	Gospel

CHURCH FUNNIES



Church Mice

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