

July 15, 2020

Greetings all!

There's not much news to report this week. Though the elders have raised the cap to 65, we've not had to turn anyone away for fear of going over that maximum. If not already in the habit, **please consider wearing masks** to worship services. It's just for half an hour or so, and wearing masks is a proven way to make the environment safer for everyone. When you wear a mask, it also helps others feel more comfortable coming to church.

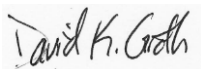
If you worship with us online and would like to borrow a hymnal, you can check one out from the church office. Remember, summer office hours are from 8 until 11:30 am.

The memory verse for this week comes from Romans 10:17, "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

We've been praying for Jim Strege who has been struggling with health issues. We received the following note from Jim and Diane. *"During Jim's lengthy illness and time away from home, we'd like to thank Bonnie Mihal, not only for her weekly calls, but for her concern in regard to Jim's health and my ability to cope with all that was going on. We'd also like to acknowledge the calls from Pastor Groth and so many church members as well as the overwhelming number of cards and offers of help that we received. All of your thoughts and prayers are so heartwarming! Diane and Jim Strege"*

Corona has us all asking what the near future will look like. There are more questions than answers. Yet, there is still much for which to give thanks. I name a few things for which I am grateful: for those first wonderful ears of corn from the farmers' market. For the tomatoes that are beginning to ripen in the garden and the basil plants next to them. For thick, neat rows of mown hay drying in the sun. For lightening bugs and monarch butterflies and a bumper crop of milkweeds along the roadsides. I give thanks for you, for your continued support and encouragement, and for the pleasure of serving here. And, above all, for God's grace in Jesus Christ.

In an uncertain environment, it's still good to take a few deep breaths and count the blessings that come freely from God's hand.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David K. Groth". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a light gray rectangular box.

Pastor Groth