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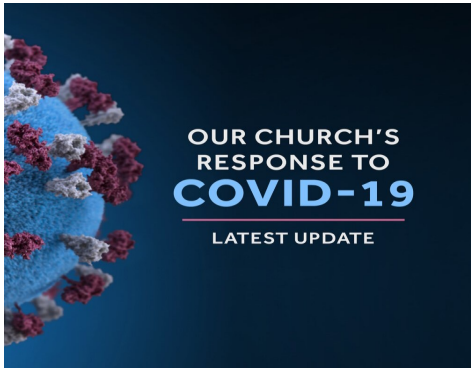
A word cloud of positive emotions and spiritual concepts. The most prominent words are 'ABUNDANCE', 'GRATITUDE', 'RECEIVE', 'JOY', 'PEACE', 'GROWTH', 'BLESSINGS', 'ACCEPTING', 'LOVE', 'NOW', 'CONNECT', 'EMPATHY', 'APPRECIATION', 'TRUTH', 'PRESENT', 'GIVING', 'COMMUNITY', 'DEEP', 'MINDFULNESS', 'CHANNEL', 'LIGHT', 'MOMENT', 'PURPOSE', 'SHARE', 'INFINITE', 'RESPECT', 'CHANGE', 'GROWTH', 'HEALTH', 'BLISS', 'SEEK', 'MIND', 'GRATEFUL', 'FLOW', 'PRESENCE', 'HOPE', 'HEAL', 'LEARN', 'RELIEVE', 'RESOLVE', 'KINDNESS', 'SOUL', 'SPIRITUAL', 'PLATONIC', 'RELIGIOUS', 'SACRED', 'PROFANE', 'SCANDALOUS', 'PROFANE'.

*By Max Ehrmann © 1927*

Finally, in this Easter season that leads to Pentecost, as we watch the trees bud, flowers bloom and the birds make their nests, let us be grateful for the gift of life and death and sing together Psalm 150:

- <sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord!  
Praise God in his sanctuary;  
praise him in his mighty firmament!
- <sup>2</sup> Praise him for his mighty deeds;  
praise him according to his surpassing greatness!
- <sup>3</sup> Praise him with trumpet sound;  
praise him with lute and harp!
- <sup>4</sup> Praise him with tambourine and dance;  
praise him with strings and pipe!
- <sup>5</sup> Praise him with clanging cymbals;  
praise him with loud clashing cymbals!
- <sup>6</sup> Let everything that breathes praise  
the Lord! Praise the Lord!

With resurrection hope,  
Pastor Romeo Dabee



With the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) global outbreak, and the mandates from our religious and legislative leaders, we at St. James-St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church will continue to take the following measures for the foreseeable future:

- 1. **Remain Closed** for Worship Services and Meetings – During this time, you can call the Church office to let us know if you are in need of Pastoral Care or special prayers.
- 2. **Reach out to our members and friends** – You may join us in connecting with our church family – let them know that they are loved. We strongly suggest you do so by telephone and avoid person-to-person contact...at the least, pray for everyone.
- 3. **Your Church Offering** – You can mail-in your Offering Envelopes to the Church or if possible, drop them off (please, Checks only) in our mail slot on the side door. Contributions can also be made via your PayPal Accounts... <https://www.paypal.me/StJamesStMatthews>
- 4. **Going forward** – we will continue to share our **Sunday Worship Services** online and have an audio version available for those who wish to dial-in from home phones. For Sunday 10:00 am worship services, please **dial 646-558-8656** and enter meeting ID: **394-171-8778 #**.
- 5. Video recording of **Sunday Worship** “Service of the Word” are posted on our website for your viewing: [www.SouthOzoneParkChurch.org](http://www.SouthOzoneParkChurch.org)
- 6. Our **Annual Church Picnic** scheduled for Saturday, June 13 has been canceled due to the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Now, in an effort to keep in touch with our church family during this time, we will continue to send out weekly email blasts and posting updates on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/St-James-St-Matthews-Lutheran-Church> Email us at [stjstm@aol.com](mailto:stjstm@aol.com) if you do not get our weekly blasts, and “like us” on Facebook to get these updates when posted.

As we continue to shelter-in-place and do our best to cope with these times, you are invited to engage the Scripture Readings assigned for the month of May.

**May 3 – Easter 4: John 10:1-10**

**May 10 – Easter 5: John 14:1-14**

**May 17 – Easter 6: John 14:15-21**

**May 24 – Easter 7: John 17:1-11**

**May 31 – Pentecost : Acts 2:1-21 & John 20:19-23**

In addition to meditating on scripture during these days, we also look to God in fervent prayer. Jesus in his farewell discourse (to his first disciples) promised, “I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.” (John 14:13-14)

In 1952, President Harry Truman made the National Day of Prayer an annual observance, stating: “*In times of national crisis when we are striving to strengthen the foundations of peace...we stand in special need of Divine support.*” Every year since, the 1st Thursday of the month of May has been designated National Day of Prayer—this year it’s May 7th.

So, please pray with me—a prayer for such a time: *O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

*ELW, Evening Prayer  
attributed to Martin Luther*



**Sunday Worship: 10:00 am**

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**Contact us by Mail:**

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