

Arlington Hills
Lutheran Church
"LIGHT FROM THE
HEIGHTS"
February 2022

Happy
Valentine's
Day

 Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



Be a "Ship" Builder 2022

With the New Year we will have a new
year-long theme.

That is to ... "Be A Ship Builder".

The definition of a shipbuilder from the Merriam-Webster Dictionary is "A person or company that builds ships" or "A business that builds and repairs ships."

Unlike Jethro Gibbs from NCIS we will not be building this ship in the basement of our church and wonder "How we will get it out?" We will build/repair these ships each month and set them to sail.

This year we will explore how we can build or repair a different ship each month. Some of these "ships" will be familiar to you such as Worship, Fellowship, Partnerships, Stewardship, just to name a few.

So I want you to think about what other "ships" that might need to be built here or might need to be repaired and let me know your ideas.

I want to thank my sister and her husband, Sue and Dave Hunt for building the ship that you see in the lobby. As we did in a Year of Generosity we will tie different bible verses, songs to each theme.

We will raise the first sail "Worship" to kick off the month of February.

Will you join our crew? On the
The USS Flagship "Arlington Hills Lutheran Church"
Docked in Port, on the Eastside of St. Paul
Let's Set Sail and Have Some Fun!



Pastor's Paragraph(s) - A Year of Shipbuilding

In the Bible, water is frequently portrayed as dangerous and tumultuous. Beginning in Genesis, we see God's wind/breath/spirit (yes, the Hebrew word *ruah* can mean all three of those English words) hovering over the chaotic waters of the deep. It's in the midst of—and in spite of—these chaotic and dangerous waters that God creates a well-ordered world. The world-destroying flood that Noah, his family, and two of each kind of living creature survives is perhaps the epitome example of treacherous waters. Dangerous water can also be seen in the Red Sea, which God parts in order to create a way for the Israelites to escape Pharaoh's army that is in hot pursuit. The Psalms make frequent references to the danger of the depths of the sea and crashing waves (Ps. 42:7). New Testament stories of Jesus walking on water and protecting Peter's boat and the apostles during a storm further illustrate the hazardousness of the sea.

Given the perilousness that the sea represented in scripture and the ancient world, it's no wonder that a boat or ship has become a symbol of the Church throughout Christian history. The church, like a ship, is a place of safety and shelter from the storm. In 2022, AHLC is using this ship imagery to help us deepen our sense of our work for the Church. Each month we'll be introducing a new "ship," that is, a word that includes the word "ship." We will be sharing ways for you to interact with and be involved in the theme for the month. We know that even as we deepen our work *for the church*, we will deepen the church's kingdom work *in the world*.

A note of credit and thanks needs to go to Mary Kowitz and her right-hand person Florence Rasmusson. The ship in the lobby alone should have you excited for this opportunity to think about how to develop our ship, Arlington Hill Lutheran Church, and extend its reach to the needs of the East Side, and beyond.

Anchors aweigh!

Pr. Mitch Kinsinger

Worship Every Day, All Day

Please read Matthew 4: 4, Luke 15, Philippians 2: 14 and 4: 11

Tish Warren recommends, after waking and when we are alert, that we remember that we have been baptized. The subject of the first chapter of Ms. Warren's book, LITURGY OF THE ORDINARY, is the effect that our being baptized should have on the way we spend our days. Baptism has released us from yesterday's sins and promises new life. We work, rest, play, care for our families and perform other tasks which are important to God. As she says in the final sentence of the chapter: "How I spend an ordinary day; is how I spend my Christian life."

Each of the chapters of this book is about events that could occur in an ordinary day and how those events can be the opportunity for worship. Ms. Warren is a priest in the Anglican church. Most chapters contain quotations from the Anglican liturgy. Readers will recognize that large portions of that liturgy are identical to what appears in the Lutheran Book of Worship.

The subject of chapter 5 is about an activity in which we take part every day, eating. Page 63 contains the statement: "Christian worship consists of word and sacrament." Ms. Warren devotes 14 pages to an explanation of the relationship of the word (both written in scripture and spoken in sermons) and communion. She elaborates on the passage from Matthew. She states that of all the things that Jesus could have asked his disciples to do in remembrance of him he chose a meal. She includes these sentences quoted from page 64: "Christ is our bread and gives us bread. He is the gift and the giver. He is our true food and our eternal nourishment." She advocates generosity in the sharing of the abundant food available to most Christians with the world's needy concluding the chapter with this sentence: "In Christ there will always be enough for us, with so much left over."

Chapter 4, Lost Keys, features confession and absolution. Chapter 15 of Luke's Gospel is about losses, a sheep, a coin and a son. While searching for her lost keys at the beginning of a busy day Ms. Warren describes the irritation, the desperation, the blame, and other criticisms before she finds those keys. As a result of her confession, she realizes that she wants to be in control and how little control she actually has. The passages from Philippians were very helpful to her. She makes comments about how a person's sins affect many other people, and how a confession is an act of worship.

The final chapter beginning in page 141, entitled "Sleeping", contains this sentence "In 2013 the Center for Disease Control and Prevention declared that insufficient sleep is a public health problem. Ms. Warren declares that is also a spiritual problem. She provides information about the reality of the problem and advice for dealing with it. If you think that prayer is part of that solution you are correct. Pages 150 through 173 contain questions for discussion and recommendations for practicing the advice that has been given in the book. LITURGY OF THE ORDINARY is available in the bookshelf near the door of the church office. Please return books when you have finished using them, so they are available to others. *Thanks Clair*

Greetings Collaborators!

Over the past few weeks, I've had the opportunity to journey alongside each of the congregations as they prepare for their annual meetings. As you might imagine, the various councils, committees, pastors, and staff have spent quite a lot of time digging into quite a few different issues. I've been able to witness conversations about staffing and stewardship. I've been invited to sit in on discussions surrounding worship and COVID safety protocols. And I have been encouraged to participate in meetings regarding the issues of property and finance. While the variety of these topics may seem to cover a broad area, each of them play a critical role in the day-to-day life of a congregation. Not only that, they are all rooted in the same area of church life – the most important area of church life: mission.

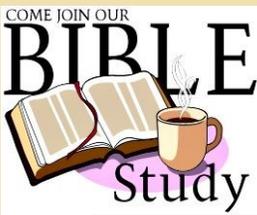
Each of the four congregations of the East Side Collaborative are in good hands, my friends. It can be easy to get caught up in the minutiae of money, masks, and the liturgical calendar and lose sight of the overarching importance of our calling to be the Body of Christ. But your council members, your committee folks, and your pastors and staff aren't just keeping the lights on, but keeping the Light of the World, Jesus Christ, at the center of all that we do together!

So, if you happen to read this before your church's annual meeting, be sure to share a word of thanks for our brave siblings in Christ for the holy work that they have been about. If you've already had your annual meeting, it's not too late to give your council members, pastors, and staff a high five or a round of applause as you pass each other in the narthex! They've been working hard and they deserve our heartfelt thanks!

And thanks to you, too! For asking hard questions, for seeking faith-filled answers, and for wearing your beloved-ness so well!

The Gospel looks good on ya!

-Per



A Preview of The Book of John, Chapter 18

Hello Bible Study Friends! This month I will write a preview of John Chapter 18.

Chapter 18 describes the arrest of Jesus and his great humiliation from those He came to redeem. Jesus was betrayed by a friend, deserted by His chosen disciples, mocked, spat on, slapped, whipped and by chapter 19 nailed on a criminal's cross.

However in spite of this humiliation, we still see the Glory of Christ in this chapter. We have always known that we see His Glory at the resurrection, but what we also see is this Glory at his arrest and trial. Jesus' Glory as the Son of God actually shines brightly in this chapter. Where do we find these times of Glory? Where can we find His Majesty? I will share some examples where you see the Lord's Glory and Majesty even in the midst of evil.

1. When the soldiers came to arrest Jesus (a legion of them), they stated they wanted Jesus of Nazareth. They hear Jesus' response "I AM" he. (v.5) When hearing the Great "I AM" speak, the soldiers fall down before Him (v.6). This was a common response in Scripture when seeing a heavenly vision, or hearing the voice of God.

2. We see Christ's Glory as the Good Shepherd when He protects his loved ones. During His arrest, he asks the soldiers to let his disciples go (v.8) Another example of God's Glory when showing love for his flock.

3. We again see His Glory when Jesus submits to His Father's will. When Peter drew his sword and cuts off the high priest slave's ear (v.10), Jesus tells Peter to put his sword away, and responds, "Shall I not drink the cup which the Father has given me?" (v.11) And in the book of Luke, we see His Glory when he heals the slave. (22:51)

4. Finally, we read that Jesus was willing to be bound by men (18:12). It had to be intense humiliation to be taken prisoner, wrists bound with cords, treated like a criminal and subject to the whim of brutal men. Jesus had authority over all men, but he allowed himself to be humiliated for us. We are the prisoners of our sins and fears, but Jesus let Himself be bound as a prisoner, so we could be free. And this was our Lord's choice. At his arrest we read in Matthew 26:53, "Don't you realize that I could ask my Father for thousands of Angels to protect us, and He would send them instantly."

At every point Jesus maintained control of His arrest. With no regret or remorse, Jesus was focused on being faithful to his Father's purpose. Thank you God! This Christmas as we celebrate the Glory of our Lord's birth, may we also be mindful of what Jesus came into the world to do for us!

Hope to see you soon in 2022!

Valerie Robertson-Osmundson 651-457-7032



Julia Vivic, who will be replacing Ryou Banno at the Luxembourg Philharmonic Orchestra Academy as a viola player! Congratulations Julia!

Online viewing maybe done on the church website at www.ahlc-stp.org

Anyone that doesn't want to go through Facebook has this option. Any feedback is welcome.

Annual meeting will be held at 11:00 a.m. on February 6, 2022

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83334700113>

Meeting ID: 833 3470 0113



The Saint Paul Area Synod is dedicating Oct. 1 to May 14 as a time of remembrance, repentance and resolve to live in equitable partnership with neighbors of Native identity.

Arlington Hills Lutheran Church

Interim Pastor:

Rev. Dr. Mitch Kinsinger

pastor@ahlc-stp.org ext. 102

Organist: Barbara Rossow

Admin.: Cheryl Hollman

Cheryl@ahlc-stp.org ext. 100

Phone: 651-771-5501

email: www.info@ahlc-stp.org

Visit us at: www.ahlc-stp.org

**Alley Shoppe clients and donations
by appointments only 651-771- 5501
extension 100**

OUR MISSION: "To Spread the Good News of Jesus Christ to all in word and deed."

OUR VISION:

"Arlington Hills Lutheran Church community a Beacon for the Kingdom of Jesus Christ."

Companion Congregation – Idegenda,,
Tanzania

Online Giving
is simple and easy!

