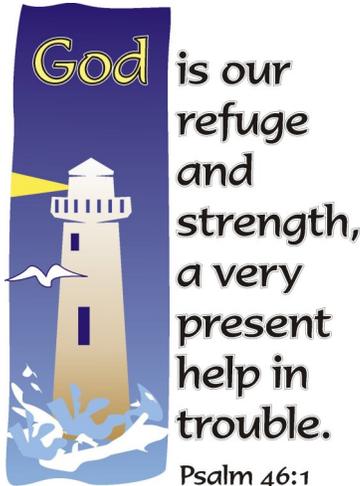


Portal ght

the monthly Newsletter of West Portal Lutheran Church and School

JUNE 2020

PAGE 1



From Pastor Binz

God Is Our Refuge and Strength

Dear Friends in Christ,

When this coronavirus started, the first Bible passage that came to mind was Psalm 46:1 *"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."* I have continued to hold on to that passage over the past few months. I hope this passage gives you the comfort that it gives me. I keep hearing that "we are in this together" which is true but is very difficult when we are isolated, "quarantined" in our own homes. It can be a very lonely experience when we can't meet for worship, cannot meet family members, or go

to gatherings, sporting events, concerts, or even go on vacation to visit other towns or cities.

We are not alone as members of the body of Christ. God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. These are troubling times but they are only temporary. We will get through this, and because of God's goodness and grace, we can be assured that whatever is happening around us, God is with us and giving us His peace.

Stay well, God's peace be with you,
Pastor Binz

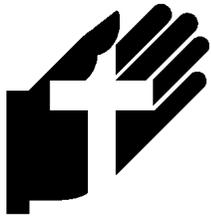
**West Portal
Lutheran
Church Website:**

westportallutheran.org

**Don't forget to check
our website!**
westportallutheran.org

We do our best to keep our website current. To that extent, you can find a weekly sermon from Pastors Binz or Kerr, devotions, and other information you may need to know during these challenging times.

Thanks to Angie Holt for keeping the website up to date.



God's people pray...

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD GOD for those who are ill, homebound, or recovering from recent hospitalization: Elfriede Bonfert; Art & Dorothy Bridgeman; Charlene Bruggemann-Wong; Lois Carlson; Ben Char; William Chen; Angie Cheung, Helen Bok's sister-in-law; Frank Gelini; Nadine Gustafson; Martha Hoelter; Joe & Lorraine Holmes; Charlotte Lew, Eva Wong's sister; Susie Marzolf; Pastor Derrick Millner; Montez Morrow and Arlene Hernandez, Lee Morrow's sisters; Mary Pon, cousin of May Wong; Laurie Prescott; Lee Rampage; Nettie Stewart, Michele Boyer's mother; Ruth Stresow; Lisa Westermann; Marilyn Wong.

FOR Christine Wood and her family as they mourn the death of her husband, James.

WE CONTINUE TO GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD FOR:

- all of the health care professionals, first responders, police & fire department workers, grocery store clerks and cashiers, teachers, and all of those who are working during these challenging times.

- our dedicated West Portal Lutheran School faculty. We pray for patience and wisdom for them as they learn new ways to teach their students via computers.
- the many blessings He gives to us even during these challenging times. We ask for patience as we stay in our homes and live with the uncertainty that accompanies these challenges.



This issue of the PortaLight is being sent to all our members for whom I have an email address. As you speak with other members, if they mention that they are not receiving communications from the church, please ask them to send their email address to me and I will add them to the mailing list. If they don't have email but would like to receive church communications, please have them call me with their address and I can mail things to them. It's important that we stay connected with each other.

Jan Lundquist

Portal ght is the monthly Newsletter of West Portal Lutheran Church and School

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Rev. Curtis Binz, Senior Pastor

Rev. J. Wayne Kerr, Associate Pastor

Jan Lundquist, Church Secretary, PortaLight Editor

Mickey Angerman, Principal

Worship Schedule

Due to the Coronavirus, we are not having Saturday or Sunday Worship Services. We will return to having regular worship services as soon as it is safe to do so.

West Portal Lutheran Church is a member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.



Thoughts from Pastor Kerr

What Have We Learned from Covid 19?

*How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of
your wings. Psalm 36:7*

Dear WPL Family of Faith!

The events of the past several months have provided all of us the opportunity to stop and take a good look at ourselves, the focus of our life, and ask what's really important, giving genuine meaning to our day to day lives. Before *Covid 19* almost everyone spent their days blindly pressing forward to succeed in a long list of activities that filled each day.

Then suddenly it was like turning off a light switch; it was surreal, like some apocalyptic movie, when suddenly West Portal Lutheran Church and School announced that services were being discontinued and all school education would be accomplished online. In one frantic overnight move teachers, students of all ages, and school families had to become computer tech teaching savants. And yes, your Pastors overnight became this kind of strange "Lutheran Televangelist"; now that's really weird!

Each day, we find ourselves faced with challenges like never before. It's one thing to be quarantined due to a childhood illness such as chickenpox or the measles. But for whole cities, states, and countries to literally be brought to a standstill has until now only been a reality of science fiction. Pastoral care, especially in the case of unexpected death and helping those who grieve find closure, is chal-

lenging to say the least. Yes, we are faced with something so unbelievable it's hard to know what to do next, sometimes even how to provide for the basic necessities of life. It is so easy to allow fear to take hold of our lives, clouding our abilities to make wise choices.

The past few weeks have been filled with uncertainty, anxiety and at times fear of what might happen next or if we would we ever return to normal. These questions still haunt us and will continue to be with us for a long time. But rather than dwelling on what we cannot control, I invite you to get pencil and paper and make a list of what we have learned together, and just perhaps we will realize the dark monster of fear isn't so scary after all.

Perhaps your list includes:

- Focusing more on the importance of today and how and with whom I spend the day.
- Developing a deeper appreciation for family and friends both those in home and far away. *Saying and meaning things like thank you and, I love you more....*
- A deeper concern for those in need and the openness and willingness to share love, compassion and resources to sustain them in body and soul.
- A deeper appreciation for what is here and now: giving thanks for all of the many blessings, large and small, from our Heavenly Father that have been taken for granted in the past.

These are just a few and I'm sure there are many more. It is times such as these that remind us of just how much, we are at the mercy of the world

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around us. But more importantly, in these times of uncertainty, anxiety, fear and yes, in some cases death, we realize just how much we need a Savior, Jesus Christ.

In the middle of all of our problems we know we can confidentially seek refuge in God our loving Father who promises to help us in times of trouble and uncertainty. It is important to never forget that God gave His Son for us and our salvation, and He promises to always be with us and will never abandon us. Please know that as we continue to face the uncertainty of what might be, in faith we know there is hope for a brighter tomorrow. In time, this sickness will be abated, but our lives will be changed.

It is important to remember that the medical requirement to temporarily distance oneself from others doesn't mean to stop caring and loving one another. After all, are we not called out of the darkness of fear into the redeeming light of Christ to live in the world as witnesses to his mercy and love? Continue to reach out to someone who you know may feel lonely, fearful or anxious; let them know they are not forgotten and that you care about them.

As always both Senior Pastor Binz and I are continuing to pray for our congregation, faculty, staff and especially each school family. We are always available for your pastoral care needs, especially during the next few weeks. Please feel free to contact us via phone or email.

Have wonderful and blessed week making the best out of what is definitely the most unique time of our lives!

God's Richest Blessings and Peace
Rev. J. Wayne Kerr
pastorkerr@wpls.com
415-661-0242x224



Thank you to all who have called, sent notes and particularly prayed for my husband, Perry, during his illness and death. Your prayers and expressions of love and concern meant a lot to me and my family and were very much appreciated during this difficult time. It is a real blessing to be a part of the West Portal Lutheran Church family.

In Him,
Faye Close

FATHER'S
DAY
June 21, 2020



West Portal Lutheran School Graduating Class of 2020

Isaac Auyeung
Andrea Chan
Kaylie Chan
Nathan Chan
Samson Chang
Vivian Chen
Zhen Xiong Chen
Titus Cheng
Nicholas Chiu
Damien Chow
Taylor Chow
Ashley Chung
Rowan Dawson
Ava Der
Amanda Dong
Ethan Gee
Elizabeth Hsu
Jadon Hung

Sophia Hung
Gavin Huynh
Kristen Huynh
Amelia Kang
Sydney Lai
Wilson Li
Este Liu
Ethan Lo
Sienna Lo
Reese Lu
Alina Lum
Nathanael Luu
Rachel Mak
Aaron Mok
Nathan Napolion
Kevin Nie
Yuyue Rong
Russell Shiu

Natalie Sinn
Aiden Soong
Zita Tam
Fantasy Wang
Livia Wang
Andrew Wong
Kiley Wong
Krystal Wong
Nicholas Wong
Sarah Wong
Timothy Wong
Winston Yan
Evan Yee
Jaycee Yee
Seiji Yoda
Kyler Yu
Monica Yums
Sydney Zhao

Congratulations, WPLS Class of 2020. This was not the way that you expected your 8th Grade year to end, but we, the members of West Portal Lutheran Church, want you to know that we are proud of you and that you will always be a part of the West Portal Lutheran family. We wish you God's richest blessings in the years ahead, and we know that He will be with you every step of the way.

West Portal Lutheran School: News from the Principal's Desk

“Normal”

The 2019-2020 school year is over, and it was one for the history books. The first three quarters of the year were “normal,” or at least what we used to know as normal. Students came to school, met their teacher in the classroom, sat in their desks, and spent the day at school – learning all kinds of subjects. Then COVID-19 came to the United States and education changed. March 13th was the last “normal” day of this school year. “Normal” was a thing of the past.

Distance learning – school at home – became the new way to educate our students. The teachers learned how to teach online in days. A new schedule for classes was established and school continued. I am very proud of our teachers and the way they adapted to teach our students. Learning continued until the very last day of the school year. We will be graduating 53 students. We are very proud of them and wish them the very best as they move on to high school.

Faculty Changes

At the end of this year, two of our teachers are retiring from full-time teaching. Dan Holt, has been a teacher at West Portal Lutheran for the past 35 years. During that time he taught many subjects and grade levels. He ended his career by teaching P.E. to our 4th – 8th graders. He also was our cross country and track coach. Dan will continue to lead the 8th grade trip to Washington D.C. We are hoping he will also be a substitute teacher after taking a well deserved break. Dan will be missed.

The other retiring teacher is Irene Sandvik. Irene has been a member of our faculty and staff for the past 38 years. She has also served WPLS in many positions. Her last has been as one of the 5th grade teachers. She is known for her science gadgets and being

a great mentor for our new teachers. Irene has expressed willingness to substitute for us in the future. West Portal is losing two dedicated teachers who love Jesus and shared that love with their students.

Jordan Merrifield, one of our Kindergarten teachers, has also decided to leave WPLS and return to her family. She has enjoyed her time here and loved her students. When the pandemic is under control, we hope she will return to us. We pray that God will protect and bless her.

Summer School

Due to the pandemic, WPLS will not be having Summer School this year. The school will use the extra time to deep clean the school and get ready for the next school year. We may never return to “normal,” but we will continue to educate children and teach them about the love of God and His saving grace.

The teachers and staff are looking forward to time we can all be together again. Even in the midst of a pandemic, we remember that God is in charge, and we remember our theme Bible verse for this year: “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” I Thessalonians 5:16-18

I pray everyone is staying safe and staying healthy. Until we can be together again, please take care of yourself and your family.

His faithful servant,
Mickey Angerman
Principal



Wednesdays, 11:00AM

Pastor Binz is leading an on-line Bible Study on Wednesday mornings, starting at 11:00AM. If you would be interested in joining the class, please contact Pastor Binz, pastorbinz@wplsfc.com so that he can provide you with the link for joining the class.

News about our members and former members

Timothy Austin Arnold

Congratulations to Tim Arnold who graduated Summa Cum Laude from Arizona State University, the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Graphic Information Technology. While the formal graduation ceremonies were cancelled due to Covid-19, Tim's family (Pastor & Kathy Arnold, Nathan, and Emily) are proud of Tim's accomplishments. Tim was a West Portal Lutheran School graduate, Class of 2012.

Kyle Stranahan

Congratulations to Kyle Stranahan who graduated from Georgetown University.

Matthew Stranahan

Congratulations, Matthew, on graduating from St. Ignatius College Preparatory.

David Garrett

Sheltering in Place: A Reflection and Story

"Sheltering in place" wasn't a familiar phrase to me until COVID-19. For me, it's like being on a spaceship with occasional space walks. Hopefully, you my West Portal Lutheran family are holding up okay.

A verse that's been meaningful to me over the past six months is Isaiah 41:13, "For I am the Lord your

God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you." It's interesting that He doesn't declare, "I'm God." Instead, He says, "I am the Lord your God."

My visual picture for the remainder of the verse is of a child being fearful of crossing a busy street or startled by a noise. In that situation, a parent or caring older person would stoop down, take hold of the child's right hand and gently saying, "Do not fear, I will help you."

He is our God who has taken hold of our right hand and is saying to us, "Do not fear, I will help you." Hopefully, this verse from God's Word will encourage you as it has me.

While sheltering in place, perhaps like many of you, Kathleen and I have spent time organizing things. While going through photos and personal papers, I found my baptismal certificate. My godparents' signatures appeared on the certificate and were readable, so I decided to google them.

To my surprise, both are still living (ages 91 and 90), so I decided to call. My godmother answered the phone and though she didn't remember me, we had a nice conversation. My grandfather owned

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the grocery store this very small desert town, so my godmother knew my grandparents and my mother well. Our family moved to Los Angeles when I was two, so I only vaguely remember driving past their house as a boy and being told it was where my godparents lived. It turned out they have lived in that same house for their entire 70 years of marriage.

My parents and grandparents are gone now, so being able to find out who my godparents are and connect with them was like reaching back into history. I was surprised they are still living and thrilled to be able to speak with my godmother. At the end of our conversation, I asked if I could pray for them. It was an emotional experience and I could barely get through my prayer.

It's amazing to be able to reconnect with godparents after 63 years. Afterwards, I wrote a letter and mailed it to them along with a copy of my baptismal certificate and a couple of photos. I'm grateful.

James Wood

Former WPL member James Joseph Wood passed away peacefully on Friday, May 8, 2020, at El Camino Hospital. A graveside service was conducted by Pastor J. Wayne Kerr on Wednesday, May 20th.

Jim was born August 22, 1937, in Little Rock, AR. He attended school in San Francisco, CA. Jim had an entrepreneurial spirit establishing and running a successful barbershop, Deli and Real Estate office in San Francisco, as well as an Ice Cream Parlour in Daly City.

Jim is survived by his wife of 32 years, Christine Wood, son James Wood and daughters Christina Kongaika, and Deborah Wood. Jim is also survived by his three grandchildren, Monisia, Zephyr, and Kulia Kongaika.

The Rev. David P. Stechholz

Pastor David Stechholz is the proud author of a book, "Love, Hope, and Faith", a compilation of stories and anecdotes about the building programs of three churches. A prominent feature of the book is the story of the building program for the West Portal Lutheran School Sunset Campus. There are copies on the book in the church library should you wish to read it. And if you are interested in purchasing a copy, please check with Jan Lundquist in the church office.

AS YOU KEEP IN CONTACT WITH OUR

MEMBERS: If you hear of any news that you would like to share with the congregation, please let me know at jan.lundquist@wplsf.com. I will continue to put out a monthly PortaLight, and this would be one way of keeping up with our members..

-Jan Lundquist



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|----|-----------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 1 | Faye Close | 16 | Paige Bitonio |
| 1 | Kaitlyn Michaud | 17 | Elle Arikawa |
| 2 | Grace Man | 17 | Jan Lundquist |
| 2 | Wayne Kerr | 17 | Bill Primozic |
| 2 | Olivia Leung | 17 | Aevlyn Toscano |
| 3 | Brad Still | 18 | Kaylen Canardo |
| 3 | Bernd Rogge | 18 | James Cheeseborough III |
| 5 | Dona Fuchiwaki | 19 | Charlene |
| 5 | Michaelyn Miyagishima | | Bruggemann-Wong |
| 6 | Pat Allen | 20 | Sherie Wong |
| 6 | Twilight Reyes | 20 | Lorraine Holmes |
| 7 | Linda Chao | 24 | Grace Yuen |
| 9 | Elia Badra | 24 | Linda Wade |
| 9 | Kelsey Parnian | 24 | Kimberly Yee |
| 10 | Aaron Wendt | 24 | George Mack |
| 11 | Anna Porter | 24 | Evelyn Shadel |
| 11 | Sierra Wang | 25 | Kit Ma |
| 12 | Elaine Mills | 25 | Joshua Young |
| 12 | Stacy Ohmura | 26 | George Moore |
| 13 | Lonnie Yee | 26 | Margaret Twomey |
| 13 | Lindsay Woolward | 26 | Eileen Crouse |
| 14 | Hailee Wu | 27 | Noah Stofferahn |
| 15 | Walter Lew | 28 | Lee Rampage |
| 15 | Khalil Huey | 29 | Kimberly Lew |
| | | 29 | Leonna Hutchinson |
| | | 30 | Bret Cornell |
| | | 30 | Eric Jung |
| | | 30 | Jason Wendt |



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| 1 | Edward & Naomi Ray |
| 7 | James & Cheryl Wong |
| 10 | Tom & Mickey Angerman |
| 12 | Erik & Teresa Hansen |
| 14 | Pastor Wayne & Marilyn Kerr |
| 17 | Ray & Kathy Holstead |
| 17 | Will Ji & Lauren Jann |
| 17 | Ronald & Brenda Rumbaugh |
| 19 | Brian & Margaret Twomey |
| 21 | Gary & Betty Lee |
| 21 | Raman & Christine Edwards |
| 24 | John Hoch & Elissa Choun |
| 29 | Gerald & Jennifer Char |
| 29 | Edgar & Michele Boyer |
| 30 | Philip & Shirly Go |

"Pray for one another"
(James 5:16)

Let us follow this command of God's Word. Use the birthdays and anniversaries list each month to hold up one another to the Lord in prayer. You may wish to keep this list on your refrigerator, in your Bible, in your Portals of Prayer, or in some convenient place. What strength we receive from Almighty God when we sincerely pray for one another!