

Carlock Christian Church – Weekly Update 58

April 25, 2021

Message from the Pastor

Dear Church,

One of the lectionary texts for this week is the well-known verse Psalm 23. This is, of course, the one that begins, “The Lord is my shepherd...” When I hear this text a couple things come immediately to mind. One of them is the British television series *The Vicar of Dibley*, which my parents and I would watch on PBS when I was growing up. An arrangement of this psalm, in hymn form, would play over the credits before and after each episode. The second thing that comes to mind when I think of Psalm 23 is funerals. I hear this Psalm read or recited most often when I am attending a funeral. It makes sense that this psalm is a staple of funeral services. It paints a lovely picture of God as shepherd, leading us, faithfully, through life and death and into an afterlife where we can finally find rest and peace in the house of the Lord.

It is a lovely image, and lovely words. So much so, that it seems a shame that this verse only gets brought out during funerals. I say this because, as much comfort as this psalm can offer us with its vision of “goodness and love following me all the days of my life” and an afterlife where we will “dwell in the house of the Lord forever” it also has a lot to say to us about our relationship with God in this life. Certainly, God is our Shepherd, guiding us and beckoning to us, but we are not simply being led to a peaceful resting place in “the great beyond.” A shepherd is not just for herding, the other part of the shepherd’s job is to go out and find the lost sheep. We need that kind of shepherd. Lost sheep that we are, we too often wander away and find ourselves in a thicket or in a ditch or confronted by a lion. These are situations we cannot avoid, but that is okay, because our shepherd, the God we know in and through Jesus Christ, does not just lead us to green pastures and quiet waters. Our shepherd is with us when we inevitably fall into a ditch, or get caught up in a thicket, and our shepherd stands with us against that lion.

Our shepherd God is ever present in our lives, but that is not the end of the blessing. Through Jesus we have been shown the way to be a shepherd, too. We can help others find quiet waters and green pastures, but we also know that we can be with them in the ditch or the thicket. So, this week I invite you to reflect on this psalm and reflect on how it has influenced your relationship with God. Then reflect on situations where you have, or could have, shown up in the world as shepherd.

Be well,

Zach

Sunday Worship

This week’s worship will be in-person following our standard social distancing protocols. On Sunday afternoon the worship recording will be put out virtually for access via the church’s [Facebook page](#) and the [church website’s worship page](#). In addition, Sunday morning the church service can be listened to live on the radio around Carlock by tuning your radio to 105.9FM at 10:00AM.

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(217)-358-6593
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Summer Camps!

Incorporating guidance and recommendations from the state about how to operate our in-person camping programs this upcoming summer, our regional camping program has decided to have weekend camps! The regional church's statement on the summer camps, the summer camp dates, age groups for each camp, the cost, and online registration links can be found [here on the Regional Website](#). Further, any of our children and youth who are interested in attending summer camp will have half of their camp cost paid by the church! If you have any questions or the remaining amount is still a barrier, please reach out to Clayton Summers (part of the camping program for 20 years) as we will make certain any child who wants to go to camp can.

VBS+

We are excited to announce that this summer Carlock Christian Church will be taking a different twist on VBS, VBS+. The idea of VBS+ is that it is everything we love about VBS, from the stories to the crafts and activities, but *plus* families! Our theme for this year will be “*Embrace the Fruit of the Spirit*”. Like our current children ministry offerings, there will be two ways to participate. Option one will be via a pre-packed kit and online videos for those who are not yet comfortable being in person or unable to attend for scheduling reasons. We'll send enough supplies for the entire family to participate at your own pace! Option two will be in-person at the church with either your family or some adopted adults from the congregation! For those in-person, more specifics will depend on the most recent health and safety guidelines. What we need from our families in the church right now is to fill out [this survey](#) so we can make a decision on the dates and times and let our community know so they can participate as well! The survey should take only two minutes and we ask it be completed by April 28th. For any further questions or clarifications, please contact Clayton Summers!

Illinois Covid-19 Vaccine Appointment Hotline

The state of Illinois has set up a vaccine hotline to assist in getting Covid-19 vaccine appointments for people who are eligible as an alternative to the online only sign-up. More information can be found [here](#) and the vaccine hotline is (833) 621-1284.

New Church Email

The church has a new email address! To assist in making a more centralized online presence, carlockdoc@gmail.com will be the email address associated with the weekly update, a Carlock Christian Church YouTube channel where all our worship services will live, and other online accounts. Nothing should change for reaching our staff via email. Pastor Zach can still be reached at zach.e.martin1987@gmail.com and youth pastor Clayton at clayton.wwjd@gmail.com at this time. For the time being this is a change to centralize our various online church accounts.

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Crew and Cohort Update

Crew and Cohort will continue this week as we still have Crew (K-5) from 6-7PM and Cohort (6-12) 7:30-8:30PM on Wednesday. We will be having two options each week for your child(ren) to participate as a result of your survey answers. The first option will be in-person, masked, and socially distanced in the church basement. If you are not comfortable yet with this option or if you or your child(ren) is/are not feeling well, your child(ren) will still be able to join in via Zoom for the same activities, videos, community building, and Christian formation! The Zoom link for each week will be:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88226160610?pwd=L21qck84OXoreDVVRGt3Q1B0Q2R4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 882 2616 0610

Passcode: 233001

Please do not hesitate to reach out to Clayton Summers with any questions at 618-262-3065 or via email at clayton.wwj@gmail.com.

Please also note that this is our final Wednesday for Crew this spring semester, April 28th, so Clayton can direct more of his time towards preparations for VBS+. Cohort will continue past this date.

Partners in Healing: Acute Rehab Unit

In 2021, Carlock Christian Church will be taking part in the Partners in Healing initiative with Carle BroMenn Hospital. As part of this program different faith communities in the area are assigned a hospital medical unit to lift up in prayer. These are prayers of support, healing, and well-being. In return the Chaplains and staff of the Spiritual Care department at BroMenn will lift up our church in prayer as well. This year we have been assigned the Acute Rehab Unit. This is a department in the hospital that provides care for patients needing extensive rehabilitation from head, spine, and other traumatic injuries and illnesses. Please keep these people, and the staff that cares for them, in your prayers.

Church Phones

An update concerning phone service at Carlock Christian Church: We are currently using an answering service for the phone in the church office. So, if you call the church at (309)-376-2081 you will be prompted to leave a message. Pastor Zach will then be notified by text message on his cell phone. If you need to speak to Pastor Zach the most direct way is to call him on his cell phone. The number is (217)-358-6593. Also, if Pastor Zach is attempting to call you this is the number you will see on caller i.d. Thank you.

Communion

If you would like to receive communion from the church at this time, please contact Sue Larkin or Pastor Zach Martin.

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Birthdays and Anniversaries

Apr. 25 th – Ali Mueller	May 17 th – Kim & Doug Geshiwlm Anniv.
Apr. 26 th – Aaron & Stacy Miller Anniv.	May 23 rd – Rebecca Neblock
Apr. 30 th – Dom Baldassari	May 25 th – Paul Stauffer
May 1 st – Paul & Marcia Stauffer Anniv.	May 27 th – Alix Summers
May 7 th – Annie Carlock	May 27 th – Kari Miller
May 8 th – Jonathon Clement	May 30 th – Stacy Miller
May 12 th – Scott & Stacey Boots Anniv.	May 30 th – Kim Maiorello
May 14 th – Brenndon McKeon	

Food Pantry

For the month of May, Carlock Christian is specifically collecting peanut butter for the food pantry. Please bring your peanut butter (or other food donations) to the church building and place them in the tubs in the lower narthex or take them directly to the food pantry in Danvers. The Carlock-Danvers Food Pantry provides essential food for anyone in the community who is needs a meal. Whether you are looking to help out or are in need of food, for the most recent updates, please check their [Facebook](#) page. To give a monetary donate to the Carlock-Danvers Food Pantry, a check can be sent to the following address:

First Presbyterian Church of Danvers
201 E. Main St., Danvers, IL 61732
Memo: Food Pantry

Missional Opportunities

The mission of a church can be expressed in a plethora of ways, but perhaps a common definition is that of being the body of Christ in the world. With this in mind, here are some opportunities to be the body of Christ in the world.

- Volunteering with the [Midwest Food Bank](#)
- Eligible donors donating blood with the [American Red Cross](#)
- Make masks to give to those in need following an [online guide](#)

Coffee Hour with the Pastor

As the COVID numbers go down in our area and more people receive the vaccine, Pastor Zach would like to begin having more opportunities to fellowship with all of you and get to know each of you better than COVID restrictions have allowed, so far. In that spirit, in the coming weeks he would like to begin inviting small groups of you to a Coffee Hour with the Pastor before, or after, Sunday services. He is hoping to have these get togethers starting at 9:15 am on Sundays and lasting until about 9:45 and/or after worship, from about 11:00 to 11:30 am, gathering in groups of 4-8 people, or up to two family groups. This will just be an opportunity to share fellowship over food and drink and learn more about one another. Arrangements can also be made for visits during my weekday office hours, or remotely via zoom or telephone. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex or via email.

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Joys and Concerns

As a community of Christians, we find meaning in prayer and praying for our community. Below is our current list of prayer concerns and joys. Each concern will be kept on the list for four weeks unless requested again. If you have a joy or concern you would like to share with our community of faith, we ask you to email [Pastor Zach](mailto:pastor.zach@carlockchurch.org) so it can be added to the next week's Weekly Update.

- Please keep in prayer those standing up against racism and other interlocking injustices
- Please keep in prayer all those suffering from Covid19 and its effects: health, mental, emotional, spiritual, and economic
- Please keep in prayer all teachers, faculty, staff, students, and parents facilitating school during the pandemic
- Please keep in prayer Acute Rehabilitation Unit, Carle BroMenn Medical Center
- We keep in prayer Todd, a member of Dorothy L.'s family who is going through treatment for cancer
- We keep in prayer Betty H. as she deals with cancer
- We keep in prayer Richard H. as his dementia worsens
- We keep in prayer Lou Daniel's brother Jim
- We keep in prayer Jeanette K.'s friend Karen Walters as she has very few days remaining
- We keep in prayer Julie, Karen Walter's granddaughter who is her primary caregiver
- We keep in prayer Marshall Elkin's friend Rick
- We keep in prayer Dorothy L. who is facing some health concerns
- We keep in prayer Cole and his family after a mowing accident
- We keep in prayer Crystal's dad as he experiences back issues
- We keep in prayer the community of Indianapolis after the most recent mass shooting at FedEx, especially Zach's friend Ruben who was working at a nearby hospital as a chaplain the evening of the shooting
- We lift up in joy Erin and Steve's marriage
- We lift up in joy the birth of Marsha & Jim's great-grandson Weston to Nate and Katie

Giving

Financial tithes and offerings can be mailed to the church's P.O. Pox Address to continue to help support the ministries of the church. Even when separated by physical distance, we are still reaching out to be the body of Christ in our community. Everyone who has given back to God during the pandemic in whatever form, you are furthering the work of God's Realm.

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Links

All the links from each week's Weekly Update will now appear in a section at the end of the document for your convenience:

Church Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/cccdoc1/>

Church Website Worship Page: <http://carlockchristianchurch.org/worship/>

Food Pantry Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Danverscarlockcommunityfoodpantry/>

Crew and Cohort Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88226160610?pwd=L21qck84OXoreDVVRGt3Q1B0Q2R4Zz09>

Midwest Food Bank: <https://www.midwestfoodbank.org/>

Find a Blood Drive: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive>

Ministry Across Generations Faith at Home Resources:

<https://www.docfamiliesandchildren.org/untitled-cdwm>

Camping Program Current Dates & Announcement: <https://cciwdisciples.org/camp-program/>

Vaccine Hotline News Story: <https://news.wttw.com/2021/03/15/illinois-launches-hotline-covid-19-vaccine-appointments>

VBS+ Survey: <https://forms.gle/VYLUuXJCH2HJaJR9>

Email Rev. Zach Martin: <mailto:zach.e.martin1987@gmail.com>

Email Clayton Summers: <mailto:clayton.wwjd@gmail.com>

As always, we ask everyone continue to stay in touch, to reach out to each other and the church staff should needs arise, and to stay safe.

Blessings

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