

Address: 6840 Nimitz Parkway, South Bend, IN 46628
Phone: 574.272.2200 **Fax:** 574.968.0345
Website: rlasouthbend.com

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RLA NEWS AND NOTES



**"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid;
do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God
will be with you wherever you go."**

Joshua 1:9

While I Wait

By Pastor Joe Liss, St. Paul Lutheran Church – Niles, MI

If you are like me, you cannot wait for 2020 to be written into the history books and part of our story repertoire when we get old. It all started with great expectations for the new decade and *Boom!* iguanas fell dead out of trees. This year seemingly has been off the rails ever since and will *probably* end with a lighted ball falling in Times Square...though I promise nothing.

As 2020 is wreaking havoc on our normalcy, this year has really been about waiting. Waiting to get out of our houses. Waiting to see how this pandemic ends. Waiting to see if we have in-person classes. Waiting to see how the election goes. Waiting to see if our country makes it to next year. Waiting to get out of the store so you can throw your mask in the air and do a victory dance in the endzone...errr parking lot. Waiting for God to answer our prayers.

Lincoln Brewster is a phenomenal musician and can play a Fender Stratocaster like very few people can. Hearing that electric guitar tickles the fancy of my inner eighties' child. But he also happens to be a Christian artist and play piano as well. He released a quarantine version of his song, *While I Wait* that he had previously released in 2018. I had forgotten about it but there it was on Youtube and amidst living during a pandemic it gave even deeper meaning to an already great song. The song ends with:

*Though I do not understand it
I will worship with my pain
You are God, You are worthy
You are with me all the way
So while I wait, I will worship
Lord, I'll worship Your name
Though I don't have all the answers
Still I trust You all the same*

Waiting is what we do as Christians. We are waiting for the Last Day. In the meantime, life will not be fair, sometimes hard to understand, and leave us looking for answers. And as much as 2020 seems off the rails, we have been off the rails ever since Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit. We now live in a world ravaged by sin and death and our current condition only reminds us of God's grace shown to us in our Savior, Jesus Christ in whom we put our hope. Placing our hope in anyone or anything else will only leave us confused, disappointed, angry, anxious, defeated, and afraid. While we wait, we seek God's Word where He reveals to us His miracle to us – forgiveness, life, and salvation. While we wait, we worship His holy name and trust in His promises.

While I wait, the psalmist says it best, "*I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His Word I hope.*" (Psalm 130:5) I like to read that Psalm with any family who sits with a loved one close to death. But that Psalm holds true no matter what happens in this life. We can sing, "*Still I trust You all the same.*"

Circumstance does not dictate our Lord's love for us. "*For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with Him is plentiful redemption.*" (Psalm 130:7b) Thanks be to God that He does not practice social distancing! This year has been tough mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. I am sure our laments have not ended for the year just yet so while waiting we pray to the Lord for His mercy...and in Him we anchor our hope.

While I wait...listen to the song and pray Psalm 130. It will not change your circumstance, but it will focus your heart and mind on Christ crucified and the certainly of our forgiveness He won for us. And that will make all the difference while you wait out 2020 and until that day, when we see our Lord face to face.

October 16th: End of Quarter & Early Dismissal

It is hard to believe, but the last day of 1st quarter is next Friday, October 16th. All assignments must be turned into the teachers by classes on the 16th in order to be included in report card grades.

We will dismiss at 1:30 on October 16th for teachers to work on records. Extended Care will be available from 1:45-6pm as needed.

Fall Break

There will be no school on Monday, October 19th for Fall Break. Enjoy!

Parent Teacher Conferences

Report cards will be distributed during Parent Teacher Conferences October 21st & 22nd. This year for health and cleaning purposes, children not in regular extended care will need to stay home (no playing in the gym or sitting in the hallway/classrooms). Regular extended care will remain open until 6pm (or when the last child leaves) for those children who cannot be picked up at 3:30pm. Virtual Conferences will be available for any family with health, childcare, or other concerns.

Dress Code Reminder

Leggings cannot be worn as pants, even on gym or no uniform days. Under skirts or shorts is fine.

Staying Home for Illness

We appreciate that many of you seem to be erring on the side of caution when our kids are ill and keeping them (and sometimes siblings) home. With the prep-work required to shift to a digital format (especially in the younger grades), our teachers may not be able to post everything in Google Classroom. If your child 3rd-8th grade student is feeling well enough to do some work, some of their assignments will be posted online, often after the class period. Everything else will be available when they return to school. We will work with your child for extended deadlines to get caught up with the work they missed. If your child will be out more than 3 days, let your teacher or the office know and we will work with your family to make more comprehensive arrangements based on your situation.

Picture Day

We will be having school portraits taken on Thursday, October 22nd. Students will be able to wear fancy clothes (or uniforms) for the day. Fliers for online orders is attached.

Mrs. Moore will have more details for preschool.

Road Closure

We received notification that Nimitz Parkway will be closed from the U.S. 31 Bypass to Olive Rd. from **October 12th- about the 26th** (weather permitting) due to some sewer connection work. You will be able to get into the school driveway from Olive Rd. (The 31 exit will be open, but all traffic will be detoured via Old Cleveland Rd.)

Yard Signs for Sale

If you or someone you know would like a double-sided RLA yard sign, they can be purchased in the office for \$12. If you let Miss Lisa know, she can bring it out to your car if you don't want to come into the building.

Safety First, Phone Calls Later

The use of cell phones are not permitted in a school zone (like our parking lot). If you need to take or make a phone call, pull into a designated parking space before doing so. Keep our kids safe by keeping your attention on cars, car doors, and pedestrians. Many of our kiddos are short enough to be hard to see.

Morning Carline

Please help us keep the carline moving smooth & expediently. If you need to get out of your car to assist your child in any way, pull past the crosswalk so the drop off line can continue to flow.