

MOPS

Mothers of Preschoolers



**CHRIST
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
ZIONSVILLE

to the full

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.
- John 10:10 NIV -

Coordinator Connection: Unprecedented Times

Wow, what an odd way to end our 20th year of MOPS at CLC. Two months ago, the U.S. was a very different place and sometimes it's hard to remember what things used to feel like. When we could drop our kids off at school, go to the grocery store at leisure, peruse the aisles of Target, get a Starbucks, meet a friend for a chat, or go on a date night. Someday we will tell our kids what this time was like because many of them are too young to remember. Our boys love having their dad at home during the day and not traveling for work, as do I. But that has also meant a pay cut and budgeting constraints that are hard to explain to little kids. The boys also miss their friends, playing with their neighbors, and actually leaving the house! E-learning has been a struggle and we've all lost our patience more times than I can count.

This time has been hard. But one thing I am thankful for has been all of the technology that we have at our disposal to make it a bit easier. I've probably talked to my extended family more during the past weeks than I have in a long time, due to our weekly Zoom chats. I've been taking a fitness class via Zoom from my cousin's wife in NYC. What used to be monthly girls' nights have turned into daily texts and weekly games played via fun apps like Houseparty.

I'm sad we have to end our year virtually, but I'm glad that we have so much technology to allow us to do so.

Spending time with you all keeps me grounded and reminds me that we are all going through the same things at this stage in life. It can feel even more isolating at times like this when we can't share our struggles in person, like sleep regressions, potty training woes, and now e-learning struggles and siblings fighting!

We don't know why we are going through this right now or what God's plan is for all of this. We can only know that He does have a plan and we need to trust in Him. We know that He has given us this blessing of more family time. A slower pace. A chance to be together for meals. The opportunity to highlight the hard work of our educators, health care workers, and all other essential workers. Unfortunately for many, these weeks have also been a time of grief and loss. We lift all those up in prayer.

I also pray for each of you as we move through these uncertain times. This summer will be far different from the norm. I hope that we can all meet together again in the fall. Next year's MOPS theme, Decide to Rise, is perfect for the coming year, when we will decide to rise up from the fear, the uncertainty, the isolation, the grief, and come back together. I look forward to rising up with you this fall.

-Julia Goldberg, Coordinator



MOPS Announces Theme for 2020-2021

This year, we want to tell you two things that will change your life if you believe them.

First, you are fearfully and wonderfully made.

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. (Psalm 139:14)

Second, because you are fearfully and wonderfully made, you have work to do; meaningful work that was built into your DNA before you were born. Work that you were made for. Sometimes, we believe that our motherhood is a constraint that limits what we can do in this life. We want to remind you that motherhood isn't a constraint — it's a catalyst.

This is the year we *arise as mothers* to awaken a weary and sleeping world. The year to accept and believe that God will fulfill his promises to you, and to embrace your motherhood as a catalyst to his plans and promises for you.

Here are the three things we will do to remind ourselves of who God made us to be:

**BE STRONG
DO YOUR WORK
CHASE JOY**

Together, may we all courageously Decide To Rise.

End of Year Notes and Reminders

We hope to see you at **8:30 p.m. May 13 for our Zoom meeting**. Following the meeting, you will receive an email with a link to our **annual survey**. Your responses are helpful as we plan for next year! You will also receive a link to our **registration form for the 2020-2021 year**. Please let us know if you will be joining us. It helps us so much when we are planning over the summer to know how many of you will be returning in the fall (we hope all of you!). We will collect fees later this fall when we know how the year will look. Fees will be similar to years past (\$90-95).

Congratulations to both Danielle Norris and Catherine Armington, who welcomed baby girls recently. Catherine and her family welcomed baby Catherine Constance "Cece" on March 21. Danielle and family welcomed baby Kennedy on March 30. We are sending you and your families lots of love during this time. We can't wait to meet them when MOPS meets again!

Through our loose change and leftover funds, we are able to make a donation of about \$350 to **Girls on the Run**. Thank you for your generosity to support the future of this organization!

Happy birthday to our moms with May and summer birthdays: Molly Schumaker (5/7), Jessica Carter (5/9), Jessica Gray (5/15), Nicky Keith (5/27), Julia Goldberg (6/4), Jodi Kerstiens (6/10), Frankie Wetnight (6/22), Dawn Lantz (7/17), Erin Taulman (7/26), Amy Smithka (8/27), and Catherine Armington (8/28).

Mentor Moment: Look Up, Hear Him, and Serve

Hello MOPS family,

2020 — What an amazing time we are living in! This virus has impacted people in so many different ways. Some are busier than ever still working, homeschooling, keeping the quarantine creative while trying not to lose our minds. Some don't know how to deal with everyone home all day. Others have lost their job, their financial income and are lonely and losing hope. Whatever the case is, LOOK UP TO WHERE YOUR HELP COMES FROM (Psalm 121 — also for encouragement listen to Lauren Daigle's song "Look Up Child"!).

How honored we should be that God has chosen us to live in such a time as this. No matter our circumstances, we must still be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and be responsible in these end times (no matter how far or near Christ's second coming is) and hear God's voice and serve Him in the way He designed us. The devil

would love us to be distracted by all of this, but we must realize this is all allowed in God's plan. The best way to stay focused is to serve your family, your loved ones, your neighbors (literally), check in on your friends and acquaintances in creative ways, help each other, and to serve "one" in simple ways.

The Bible says in Luke 6:38 we are to give and it will be given back to us pressed down, shaken together, running over. The amount we give will determine the amount we get back. This is not selfish to want to get back. But it's God's design of how He stays ALIVE in your life, how He will take care of you as you take care of others, how He gives us hope and a heart for Him and how He helps you live life to its fullest (John 10:10). He will take care of you. (And to get real with you: remember, your children are watching and learning from you on how you are handling this experience. They are your legacy and joy.)

As I've said before, I miss seeing you each month and what wonderful women you are. You all have impressed me in so many ways by sharing with each other, always bringing a great table full of food, juggling your kids in and out, and smiling through some of the most difficult situations. I look so forward to next semester no matter how it might look as we discover and live together our new MOPS theme — DECIDE TO RISE for we are fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14).

BE STRONG, DO YOUR WORK, CHASE JOY and keep smiling!

Blessings and hugs,
Susan

IN OUR PRAYERS

 Prayers for Catherine Armington, who has been diagnosed with breast cancer. Please keep her and her family in your prayers as they navigate this difficult time.

 Prayers for health and safety for our families, our nation, and the world; we lift up those on the front line and the many others serving at this time. Prayers for healing of the many who are ill, and comfort for those experiencing grief and loss.

 Prayers of thanksgiving for the time we spent together this year; may we gather again soon.

Recognizing Our MOPS 2020 Graduate

A mom “graduates” from MOPS when her (youngest) child completes kindergarten. Our mom graduating this year is **Laura Hartman**.

Thank you for your conversation, friendship, and for being a friendly face at our monthly meetings. We will miss you! Remember, you are always welcome to attend any

future Moms’ Night Out events. Stay in touch!

Years in MOPS: 2

What is the best MOPS meeting or event you attended? My first meeting ... I thought to myself, “Why did I wait so long to join and meet all these great women?” A

close second was the meeting with the Nurse Practitioner (guest speaker).

What is the best advice you could give new MOPS moms? Don’t hesitate to dive in and make bonds with your fellow MOPS moms. No topic of “mom” conversation is off limits ... we are all in this together!

Thank You to the 2019-2020 Steering Team

Huge thanks to this wonderful group of women who have served on our Steering Team this past year!

Coordinator — Julia Goldberg	MOPS Kids — Tosha Hahn
Assistant Coordinator — Jessica Gray	Publicity — Nicky Keith
Care — Whitney Bauer	Service — Erin Taulman
Finance — Tosha Hahn and Nicky Keith	Head Table Leader — Kara Seever
Hospitality — Katelynn Brack	Table Leaders — Brittany Gaynor, Laura Hartman, Abigail Verlinde
Assistant Hospitality — Jodi Kerstiens	Small Discussion Group Leaders — JoAnne Tuffnell and Barb Starkey
Mentor — Susan Williams	
MNO — Vanessa Friedman	

Introducing Your 2020-2021 Steering Team

Coordinator — Julia Goldberg	MNO — Whitney Bauer
Assistant Coordinator — OPEN	Publicity — Dawn Lantz
Care — Lauren Siegel	Service — OPEN
Crafts — Jessica Gray	Small Discussion Group Coordinator — Nicky Keith
Finance — Tosha Hahn	Head Table Leader — Jessica Gray
Hospitality — Katelynn Brack	Table Leader: — Allison Lewandowski; three additional spots open
MOPS Kids — OPEN	

As you can see, we are looking to fill a few more roles on our team: Assistant Coordinator, MOPS Kids, Service, and three table leaders. Please contact Julia Goldberg (julia_goldberg10@hotmail.com) if you’d like to serve or have questions!