



The Bell

ISAIAH 41:10

¹⁰ So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Pastor's Corner...

On the Second Sunday of Easter our sending hymn carried us forward from worship with these poetic words:

*Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever! Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!
Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory, Alleluia!*

*Weeping, be gone; sorrow, be silent; death put asunder and Easter is bright.
Cherubim sing: O grave, be open! Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light.
Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory, Alleluia!*

*City of God, Easter forever, golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,
River of life, saints and archangels, sing with creation to God the I AM!
Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory, Alleluia!*

In three verses, we are given a host of images to hold in our hearts and minds. Trumpets heralding and cherubim singing, being clothed in wonder, adorned in light. Let those images sink in for a moment.

Look at the first line of the third verse. *City of God, Easter forever, golden Jerusalem,...* How do we live each day of our lives in Golden Jerusalem, celebrating Easter forever? How do we keep the brightness of the miracle of Easter burning brightly in our hearts?

Similar questions were raised on CBS' show "60 Minutes" last Sunday. At the close of the hour, John Dickerson spoke of how our country was changed by the Great Depression and wondered how we would be changed by the current pandemic. He said this:

We praise teachers, first responders, doctors and nurses for what they do.
Will this fade? Not if we don't let the praise drop.
Will this fade? Not if we commit to a future worthy of their present sacrifice.

John was speaking about transformation and wondering if we will sustain the ways we have been changed for the better. Will we be clothed in wonder, adorned in light? We are enduring this pandemic, with its death and destruction, in the midst of the season of spring – a time of renewal and rebirth. *(Continued pg. 2)*

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PASTOR'S CORNER CONTINUED.....

As Christians we have been enduring this pandemic surrounded in the seasons of Lent and Easter – seasons that take us through darkness into imperishable light. What takes place between these two is Holy Week, filled with confusion and betrayal, injustice and agony upon agony. In spite of the agony, there was Love. Love was always there.

How have we as a nation been transformed by this pandemic? How have we as a church been transformed by this journey from Lent to Easter? How have you been transformed by the Love that endured The Garden of Gethsemane and The Cross on Golgotha? Can our “Weeping, be gone; (our) sorrow, be silent; death put asunder and Easter be bright?”

John Dickerson’s trumpeting cry, “Will this fade?,” is answered by the angelic voice to keep our praises sounding. *Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!* Will we commit to a future worthy of the present sacrifice of so many? Will we let our gratitude outshine our fears and sorrows?

Will you and I commit to a future worthy of the suffering and sacrifice of our Lord and Savior? Will words of thanks and songs of praise drown out our complaints and resentments? Will we live the words of the Psalmist:

I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover my flesh will live in hope. Ps 16.8-9

Will our rejoicing and our hope fade? Chances are, at times, they will. In those dark times of uncertainty and doubt, of trembling and fear, of sorrow and grief, Thomas shows us the way: tell God how you really feel. Then watch and wait for our Living God to reveal Himself to you. Chances are, in the presence of the splendor of God, you will proclaim, with Thomas: My Lord and my God!

Sylvie and I have found the recent changes have given us a deeper appreciation of our church family, each and every one of you. It is still a beautiful day in the neighborhood. How we miss seeing you in our splendid sanctuary! We earnestly pray that you have known God’s presence with us in this season: Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory, Alleluia!

Looking forward to the day when I will see you in church,
Pastor Rusty and Sylvie

APRIL COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Council has been meeting weekly via Zoom to discuss on-going operations of the church and changes to worship services. Worship services are presently being offered on Facebook Live on Sunday mornings. Council is working to find a way for members without computer access to be able to listen to the service via telephone.
- ◆ The church picnic scheduled for May 3 has been postponed.
- ◆ Tice scholarship applications are due by May 15. Each year graduating high school seniors can apply for The Tice Family Scholarship. Scholarship is based on 75% academics and 25% church involvement. Please contact Lauren if you need an application.
- ◆ A banner announcing the Facebook Live services was approved to be purchased and hung on the parking lot.
- ◆ An application to SBA for funds from the Payroll Protection Program has been submitted.
- ◆ A special thank you to Jurgen Schmidt for refinishing all the pews in the sanctuary!

“A NEW NORMAL”

For FLC and our friends,

"A new normal" is another name for examining our commitment in light of new conditions and realities. For the Christian Church through the ages, this "new normal" was ushered in with Christ's resurrection. It has, and should never be, "the normal" as Christ came to show us the heavenly kingdom in the here and now. That kingdom changes, adapts, and adopts, in vision and in telling, so that the next normal is met with eyes not blinded but having God's vision in mind as we act.

The following article may illustrate the challenges ahead for our Church and for us, the people of God, as we set about a new normal and conduct.

I miss seeing you. We cannot gather around the table of Christ, to share in a meal or to offer a word of peace. The stay at home orders and our churches guidelines on conduct of worship together make this our newest setting of normal.. As the orders and recommendations are eased, I will be inviting your participation in communion and the worship space (sanctuary) in a cautious and reasonable approach.

In the coming weeks, FLC will be holding communion for our church and friends who have expressed a need to have this assurance and "check in".. We are not gathering to worship all-together but we are finding a new approach to provide some recognition that we all miss each other. Look for announcements in the coming weeks as to how this can be accomplished after the orders are lifted. Stay tuned Find new ways to be a blessing today. I trust and pray for each of us.

-Pastor Rusty

Mapping What's Ahead: The Emotional Journey of a Crisis DWIGHT ZSCHEILE APRIL 3, 2020

Many of us are vacillating between feeling overwhelmed, energized, hopeful, anxious, and fearful in this moment of crisis brought on by the pandemic. We know the world has changed, but we aren't sure what to expect in the coming days or months. The public health and financial experts can only make guesses and projections in the absence of good data on what will unfold. Yet the emotional process taking place has precedents.

I've found a chart created by Episcopal Relief and Development to be particularly illuminating. It is based on their decades of experience working in disaster zones. The chart shows the emotional process a community and its members often take through a disaster.

Disasters are typically preceded by a warning stage of anticipation and preparation. This gives way when the disaster strikes to a phase of heroic engagement. People rally, pull together, and make sacrifices for each other, and the community discovers a new sense of cohesion and focus. We've seen much of this in the early weeks of COVID-19 hitting the U.S.

However, this eventually gives way to a period of disillusionment, when loss and grief become primary and undeniable forces. We are no longer steeling ourselves for a looming crisis or rallying together in a honeymoon phase, but working through the long unraveling of what was and trying to figure out what we have left. Disillusionment is the loss of expectations, dreams, and hopes. It can cut our feeling of security out from underneath us, leaving us wobbly and frail.

Working through the grief and loss is a ragged process of fits and starts, good days and bad days. It involves trying to adjust to a new normal. While disillusionment can happen quickly (like the stock market dropping 30% in only a few days), there is no way to shortcut the grief process. People take that journey at different paces.

Eventually, on the other side, there is a time of reconstruction, when the community rebuilds its life out of the ruins of what was. For many churches, the future will look very different than before this crisis. COVID-19 will accelerate (by years even) trends of institutional fragilization and demise. Yet there will be a time to build, to discover new forms for Christian community life and witness amidst the collapse of the old.

Don't be surprised if you see evidence of this emotional journey in yourself, in your congregation, and in your neighborhood. It may play out somewhat differently for each of us, but I'm struck by how it traces the arc of Holy Week, which I suspect will be particularly poignant this year. Even if we celebrate Holy Week in physical isolation, we will be reminded how God joins us in this painful journey in the death and resurrection of Christ.

COVID 19 RESOURCES

FOOD AVAILABLE

There is a federal grant given to counties in the United States to supply food for senior citizens and Bell County has received theirs. This grant money is targeted and intended to keep seniors age 60+ away from public places and there by limiting exposure to the corona virus. The grant is administered by Bell County and available to all residents. If you meet the requirements of this program, you are eligible for approximately one and a half to weeks of grocery store items (food staples, toiletries, sanitation items, etc.). Contact the following number directly to enroll: 325-372-5167 ext. 227. If they do not answer, please leave a message and they will call you back.

MASKS AND TOILET PAPER AVAILABLE IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

A special thank you to Laverne Wood for the masks that she has made. There is a table set up in the Fellowship Hall (right by the kitchen door) with masks and toilet paper. Please help yourself if you are in need of any.

INSULIN HELP

Today, Lilly [announced](#) that people in the United States can pick up a monthly supply of insulin for a copay of \$35 — it applies to everyone on **commercial insurance plans** (including high deductible plans), and perhaps most critically, it extends this assistance to the **uninsured**.

We are proud to be part of this announcement, because not only is this a tremendous step forward for insulin affordability, but it also comes at a time when COVID-19 has brought skyrocketing unemployment rates that far too often come with a loss of insurance coverage. We thank Lilly for working to make this program available immediately, especially given the extreme uncertainty caused by the pandemic.

Please join us in sharing this news with your network. **Everyone in the diabetes community should know that this new option exists.** We ask our community and partners to keep fighting for universal access to high quality, modern insulin regardless of employment or insurance status. We urge other manufacturers to follow suit and expand assistance programs at this critical moment.

We've served people with diabetes for nearly a century and want to ensure people get the help they need, especially during this time of health and financial crisis. Please call us at [833-808-1234](tel:833-808-1234) if you need assistance.

FREE MEALS FOR SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN

Temple ISD is offering FREE meals for all children under 18 at any of their elementary and PK campuses. Children do not have to be present for meal pickup if you bring one of the following pieces of identification: birth certificate, skyward report card/attendance verification or student ID card. FREE weekend meal bags are available each Friday--pick these up during breakfast or lunch times. Breakfast is served 7:30AM-8:30AM and lunch is served from 11:30AM-12:30PM.

ELCA'S COVID 19 RESPONSE

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) continues to minister to its members, to those who are hurting and searching for peace, and to those in need. To continue this important work, the church needs your help.

In the United States, unemployment has soared. We see rising demands on our food pantries, homeless shelters and social services. Around the world, millions of people living in poverty are facing this pandemic without reliable access to sanitation and health care.

Now is a time when we need one another. Now is a time to live and act as faithful people of God. You can help by supporting your congregation and making a gift to the ELCA's COVID-19 Response Fund. Your donation will provide funds to the ministries of the ELCA most in need and best positioned to help. This includes our congregations as well as local and churchwide ministries capable of reaching and assisting those in need.

PRAYER LIST

Members: Christine Berkland, Shirley Gilliland, Paul Sutter, William McBride, Melissa Teggatz, Ardene Wuthrich, Marjorie Balz, Juanita Stephenson, Lake Kirk, Roy Zuehlke, Ronnie McInis, and Larry Gossett.

Home Bound Members:

Jeanette Bedrich, Hattie Lange, Jo Tomlinson, Lorene Glaser, and Albert & Bernice Heintze

Prayers for those serving in our

Military: Mark Simerly, Jimmie Pike, Logan Hales, Mathew Dennis, Willard Steele, Chris Doughty, Wilson Owens, and Brandon Haudek

Members in Nursing Homes

LaVerne Vanicek (Garden Estates), Ruby Dana (Senior Living Center East) , Irene Pagel (Garden Estates) Clara Trojan (Cornerstone), Ann Schmidt (West Haven in West) Rosalie Tubbs (Cornerstone), Edna Hurta (Garden Estates) , Edna Hughes (Cornerstone), Anna Louise Graeter (The Meridian)

Non-Members

Mary Alsup (Korns) , Axton (Debby Bridge), Nancy Leshikar (Krueger), Roy Schuetze (Kalkbrenner) Mrs. Howard (Marsh), Helen Betzenhauser (Marsh), Mickey Wade (Marlene VanPelt) Stacy Zuehlke (Steven Zuehlke), Brenda Marshall (Paula Goynes), Deedra Moore (Judy Wilson) Kevin McCarthy (Dennis), Eva Stockett (Laura Bridges), Angela Fanella (Roberta Dennis), Sager Family (William Frank), Charlie Hughling (Grace Frei), Beth Burns & Rachel O'Connor (Sandi Pascoe)

FACEBOOK LIVE SERVICES

Thank you to everyone who has been tuning in to our Facebook Live Services. We invite everyone to join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30AM on our Facebook page (First Lutheran Church of Temple, TX). If you are not able to join us on Facebook and would like to be added to our bulletin mailing list, please contact Lauren (if you are already on the mailing list, you will continue to receive the bulletin). Thank you for your patience as we adjust to this new way of worshipping.

VANCO E-GIVING

Through VANCO, we are accepting electronic donations. You DO NOT need to establish an auto draft, you can make a one time payment using your checking account. If you would like to give an electronic donation, please contact Lauren. Thank you to everyone who has made electronic donations and those who continue to send in your offering envelopes in the mail.

CHECK YOUR EMAIL REGULARLY

We are utilizing email to keep the congregation updated. If you know someone who does not have email, please reach out to them with the information that you receive. *(Significant updates will be sent out to those who do not have email in the mail.)*