

## Apr 7, 2020 Your Daily Epistle

*From now on, brothers and sisters, if anything is  
excellent and if anything is admirable,*

*focus your thoughts on these things:*

*all that is true, all that is holy, all that is just, all that  
is pure, all that is lovely, and all that is worthy of  
praise.*

*Philippians 4:8*

Hello Church!

I just returned home from **voting in our building**. The city's procedure was so beautifully organized, kudos to our city workers for pulling this off in the ever-changing push and tug of our current partisan politics. They made good use of having access to all our space—parking lot, narthex/hallway, and fellowship hall—in helping everyone practice good social distancing. Add to that they were all so friendly behind their masks. I'm thankful my absentee ballot failed to arrive in time—my fault, I asked for it very late in the game.

Standing in line, I had a long, safe distance conversation with an Air Force vet from the Viet Nam era. He was a radar specialist and his duty was mostly in Okinawa, Japan. But right now, his wife is stranded with his/her (?) mother, because of her flight home is canceled due to the pandemic. So, he was pretty chatty, and we shared about our common experience with dogs in thunderstorms. For me, our conversation was felt like being back home at the Livermore CA V.A. or having a cup of coffee with someone in our Fellowship Hall. I do miss face-to-face pastoral care. Zoom meetings and phone calls just aren't the same.

Our “Hosanna!” sign from last Sunday was still up. Oops! After I voted, I was going to tidy up and move it to the side of the building. My hope was that one of the three workers who were standing outside to let us in one at a well-spaced time, could help me. But when I asked, one said “No! We need that up!” Another said, “Do you even know what it means?” the reply was a very firm “Yes I do!” If you look at our Facebook page, I will ask Kathy to post a photo of those three outdoor pole workers.

**In our pastor’s prayer meeting this morning, we talked a lot about sewing face masks.** A lot! I learned that while I am the only sewist in the group, Fr. John was raised by a seamstress who once owned an independent fabric store. Long story short, we have figured out a way for HAMA to cooperate in the gathering of masks and mask supplies. While there is more to follow, when Kathy can get back to the office tomorrow, she will put out two boxes on our planters beside the main door. One will say “Supplies.” If you have any ponytail holders, skinny sports headbands, shoelaces, or quilting fabric to donate, please put them in that box. The other box will say “Finished masks.” One pastor thinks he has a good project coordinator to coordinate distribution of both supplies and completed masks. As soon as that nomination is secure, I will contact SewMuchNeed to see how we interface with the rest of HAMA. If you are already making masks, please know that with Fr. John’s support I persuaded my non-sewing household pastor colleagues to trust the mask makers to do what each is capable of doing best rather than to micro-manage the patterns.

The phrase that came to mind to put on the top for our mediation today was **“Whatever is good, think on this”** from Paul’s writings. When I searched on [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com) for an exact verse, they led with Philippians 4:8. As you go through today, look for what is good in your life, then think about how it whatever today holds is a blessing.

In that light, **I am listening carefully to both Gov. Evers and Gov. Walz about when we can resume gathered worship in our sanctuary.** With the original “Safer at Home” order, I was tentatively planning on April 26. But with Pres. Trump’s extension of his order through April 30, my educated hunch is that we are looking at gathering again sometime in May and we will even then need to continue the podcast service as a bridge. Kathy and I will do our best to keep you all posted, but know I am balancing our dual standing as citizens of both Wisconsin and the greater Twin Cities Metropolitan Planning Region. But will you please pray with me on that decision based on the thought “Whatever is good. . .?” Thank you.

**As we pray today,** let us hold in our hearts all those who are lonely or coping with fear in our time to be “Safer at Home.” Pray particularly for those who are living with both loneliness and fear. May we also pray for the protection of the Wisconsin electorate in today’s important vote.

Grace abounds!

Rev. Dawn