



Trinity Lutheran Church

2221 North Oak Lane
State College, PA 16803

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This is a HUGE Thank You to everyone who has continued to support the work of the church through this difficult time.

We have a very generous congregation and are grateful for that. On top of everything that is going on with the pandemic, the church is financially sound and has been able to pay bills and operate as normally as possible, even though we are not together, in-person.

Thank you to everyone who faithfully sends in their envelopes each week.

We appreciate all of you. THANK YOU!!

We hope all are staying safe, staying cool, and having a good summer. We hope to see everyone soon.



TRINITY EVENTS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

YouTube Service w/Bulletin Emailed

MONDAY, AUGUST 17

7:00 pm Beach Calling Group Zoom

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

5:00 pm Trinity Wheelmen

5:45 pm Outdoor Zumba

7:00 pm Church Council Zoom

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20

5:45 pm Outdoor Zumba

7:00 pm Prayer/Social Group Zoom

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

8:30 am Outdoor Zumba

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

YouTube Service w/Bulletin Emailed

PRAYER LIST

TLC DISCIPLES

Jerry Wion, Carolyn Kresen, Carol Bernlohr, Dee Kiel, Donna Weller, Chloe Webb

TLC FRIENDS

James Brigman, Pete & Linda Phillips-Ferry, Rachel, Dan, Audre, Shirley Bennett, Jayne, Karl, Jocelyn, John Portlunas & the Keim family

Readings

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Psalms 67

Romans 11:1-2a; 29-32

Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

From the Pastor's Desk

August 16, 2020

Dear Beloved of God,

In the Book of the Revelation to St. John, we read: "And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also, he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.'" (21:5)

Given our current world circumstances, this promise may be hard for most of us to accept. Still, God does seem to work in strange and wonderful ways, even through COVID-19, at least, I have to cling to that truth!

Clearly, we are all affected by the pandemic, struggling to move forward day by day. Some college sports are on hold. Schools wrestle with if or how to offer in-person classes. Protests over all sorts of issues continue. And on, and on!

As the summer winds down for us here at TLC, we normally would be looking at various ministries and programs to resume, but this is not a normal year. Still, we will resume a few activities:

Special Worship and Mortgage Burning. While in-person worship remains suspended for the present, we are making plans for a special service on Sunday, September 13 at 10 am. In June we made the last payment on our mortgage, and so on September 13 we will hold a Special Worship and Mortgage Burning. Masks and social distancing will be required.

Monday Bible Study. This will resume via Zoom on September 14, 7 pm. If you want to join us contact me (TLCRevRon@comcast.net) or Beth (tlcoffice2@comcast.net) in the Church Office, so you will receive via email the invitation to join us.

Soup Days We will begin making soup on Wednesdays beginning Wednesday, September 9. Just stop by the church any time from 11:30 am to 1 pm and take what you need or can share. No sign up necessary.

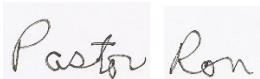
Thursday Bible Study – Beginning September 10, 10 am. Contact me or Beth (see above) so you will receive via email the Zoom invitation.

Deeper Waters – Zoom classes will resume on Sunday, September 20, 10 am (note the time change). This class is primarily for those in grades 6 – 8. We will be using the book *Everyday Spirituality* by Bishop James Hazelwood. Copies will be mailed to students. Contact me if you have a student planning to participate.

No one knows how long our current circumstances will last, but we do hope and pray that as we strive to pursue this ministry to which God has called us that we will one day discover the ways God is making all things, even us, new!

God bless and keep you and your loved ones stay and strong!

Love, joy, and peace,



Pastor Ron

Living in Quarantine: 4 Lessons

APRIL 2, 2020 BY GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

None of us ever expects to be quarantined. I certainly didn't. But following a bone marrow transplant in 2015, I was secluded for four months in hospital housing. Except for my wife, no visitors were allowed. Even after moving home, I remained in quasi-isolation for another eight months. Why? Because my immune system was susceptible to germs and viruses.

With this personal history, what advice can I give to those who are being quarantined by the coronavirus today? Or to those who are being told to shelter in place?

Up front, it is important to acknowledge just how abnormal all this feels. Being unable to talk with others face-to-face is simply unnatural. Taking care of ourselves first – before others – is contrary to the fiber of our faith. Being disallowed to hug those we love violates every instinct in our bodies. Such restrictions make us feel restless, frustrated, and incomplete.

However, as I look back on my year of isolation, all was not all doom and gloom. Though crimped, I found ways to live a meaningful life. Hopefully, my journey can encourage others during these challenging days.

Be Still

A flaming extrovert, I am more inclined towards hyperactivity than sitting still. Yet suddenly, I was thrust into a very different life – one of quietude and reflection. I found myself journaling more, praying more, and reading more. In what could have been a desolate time, I was surprised by how much my sense of the Lord's presence and overall spirituality deepened. My rediscovery of the spiritual discipline of solitude lifted my soul even as my body was restricted.

Being isolated by the coronavirus presents a similar opportunity. After muttering "if only I had more time" for so many years, a window is open to go deeper in our faith. Being quarantined is an invitation to a richer spiritual life. Rather than rushing ahead as usual – such as binge watching yet another Netflix series – why not relish this odd season as a gift of reflection?

The apostle Paul modeled how to handle involuntary seclusion. Moving abruptly from a high-speed lifestyle to a dank (and very lonely) Roman prison, he learned how to be situationally flexible. Writing to the Philippians, he ruminated: "I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation."

Establish New Routines

When our daily patterns of work, church, and family gatherings are disrupted by quarantine, it's tempting to dispense with any sense of orderliness at all. Far too easily, we drift into random activities. While it may initially feel good to have no set calendar, a sense of emotional drift and purposelessness slowly settles in if we flounder too long.

When cancer treatment roadblocked my regular routines, I began to establish new ones. Quiet times were elongated. A daily crossword puzzle followed breakfast. When fit enough to work again, I did so online. Zoom became my best friend.

New routines should also include exercise. Walking, my favorite activity, clears our heads, lowers our blood pressure, and lifts our spirits. Out-of-doors, we are mostly safe from the virus. Breathing fresh air is the perfect antidote for cabin fever. Of course, if health care professionals confine us indoors, we must heed their advice. Whenever possible, however, we should seek to find regular times and places to walk (or run or bike).

Serve Others

Even when isolated, we need to find meaning. And the best way to do so is to help others. This may include calling an older friend or family member. Or it may involve completing a long-delayed project that will bless others – such as drafting a family history, painting, writing poetry, or putting together a photo album.

For many, serving also includes caring for the person we live with. Relationships can either grow or regress in such times. My wife, Mary, and I were cooped up together in a 1,000 square foot cancer housing apartment. While this sounds like a recipe for marital disharmony, it actually brought us closer together. If our love could flourish under such dire circumstances, I am optimistic that the same is possible for others.

Lean Into Hope

It is only human to imagine that today's experience will extend forever. For many, the virus presents a first brush with mortality. But we must never lose hope in God's goodness and sovereignty. He is fully aware of the events swirling around us.

Let us not squander this crisis. Rather, may it serve as a sober reminder of our status as sojourners on this planet. May we take this opportunity to prayerfully reassess our sense of purpose, priorities, and values.

Just as the isolation of my transplant eventually passed, so the coronavirus will run its course. And, when that happens, we will once again hug family members, attend church, go to school, celebrate with friends, and join work teams.

In the meanwhile, may we find encouragement from the apostle Peter:

“Humble yourselves under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you... Stand firm in the faith....After you have suffered a little, while, he will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.” [1 Peter 5:7]

ABOUT ALEC HILL

*Alec Hill is past president of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship and author of *Living in Bonus Time: Surviving Cancer and Finding New Purpose**