



'Till We Meet Again!

Week of October 31 and November 1, 2020

REFLECTION FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2020:

⁷God has called us to live holy lives, not impure lives. ⁸Therefore, anyone who refuses to live by these rules is not disobeying human teaching but is rejecting God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you. ⁹But we don't need to write to you about the importance of loving each other,[d]for God himself has taught you to love one another

1 Thessalonians 4:7-9

Greetings and peace to you my friends!

Just a quick note to share with you that I will not be writing a devotion to you today!

Having just come back from a wonderfully relaxing and renewing vacation this week has been a great challenge for me. You know what I mean... Vacation felt like I was moving 5mph but a return to sharing ministry with everyone this week required 500mph. A good many people within our community of faith are sick. We've had a family who is suffering from having been forced to leave their home for an extended period of time because of a fire. A brother within our community of faith has been told that his job has been eliminated. Another brother of our is being placed on hospice. A sister in Christ of ours is in the hospital not yet understanding what is wrong with her. In addition to my normal responsibilities, these are but a few of the prayers that I have been lifting up to our Lord. 500mph.

So... In thinking about what topic to share with you today in a theological reflection... I simply do not have time to stop and share a thought. 500mph!

Oh, another thing I am noticing a great deal of... Well... not sure what it's called... so I'll just call it **COVID CRUD!**



Here's my thought. I don't know about you, but I sure am tired of this whole Covid virus! I am tired of hearing about it! I am tired of the restrictions that have been imposed by this virus that I can't even see. I am tired of trying to figure out all the various pieces of medical advice being offered by both doctors and broadcasters. It truly is fatiguing! While I'm thinking about it, I'm tired of hearing about the number of people getting sick from Covid and I'm tired of hearing the reality that so many people, including people we know, have or are dying from Covid! In fact, I am not just tired of COVID. I am frustrated with COVID. I am angry with COVID! I want to fight COVID! I want to destroy COVID!!! I want to annihilate COVID!!! But how do I fight, destroy, annihilate COVID? It just does not listen to my reasoning and it avoids any punches that I may throw.

So, in some ways, my frustration, my anger, my desire to hurt COVID... well all those negative feelings... come out in my relationships with people who can't avoid listening to my reasoning, who can't avoid my path. Sometimes, these negative emotions come out with the people around me. People I love who in a

moment frustrate me. People who I like who use different reasoning than I do and come to different conclusions than me!

Are you feeling me? I'm coining this feeling **COVID CRUD!** We can't take our negative feelings out on COVID... but we can release these negative feelings out into the world.

Welcome to COVID CRUD!

It's not writing my weekly devotion because well... I'm feeling overwhelmed with the number of tragedies that I'm witnessing in the world. It's me "snapping" at the person next to me in line at the grocery store because he decided to pull his mask down to talk on a cell phone. COVID CRUD!

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1 Thessalonians 4:7-9

GREAT! NOW IN ADDITION TO COVID CRUD.... I NEED TO FEEL GUILTY BECAUSE I AM NOT LIVING UP TO THE STANDARDS GOD HOPES FOR ME!!!! AHHH!!!! UGH!!!! GREAT!!!!

¹Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever.

²Give thanks to the God of gods. His faithful love endures forever.

³Give thanks to the Lord of lords. His faithful love endures forever

Psalm 136:1-3

Thank goodness God's faithful love for us endures forever! A God Who forgives! A God Who accompanies us! A God Who dwells among us!

I don't want to take my COVID CRUD out on any of you, so I wanted to write you a short note of apology to say that my "Just for You!" reflection won't be forwarded to you this week. I hope and pray you can forgive me.

Until we speak again,

Trust God... please keep washing those hands... and be at peace with one another.

PJ

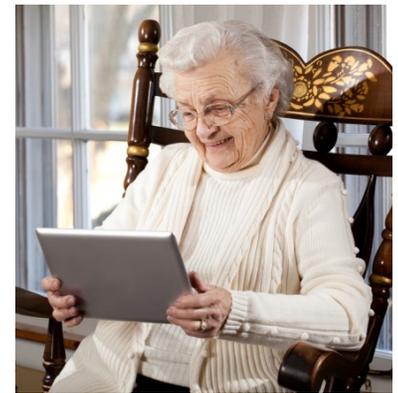


VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY

Hello Friends! Would you help a neighbor in need? Consider volunteering for SpiriTrust Lutheran Home Care and Hospice. Make friendly visits or supportive phone calls to our hospice clients. Still serving our clients for over 20 years in Berks, Lehigh, Northampton and Schuylkill Counties. For more information please call Cathy Sweeney, Volunteer Coordinator at 570-599-5390.

BRINGING IT HOME MINISTRY UPDATE

In June, the UPG sent out a letter explaining our new ministry (Bringing It Home). This ministry came about after much prayer and planning and pondering about how to include our brothers and sisters in Christ within



our community of faith who have not been able to access our weekly Live Stream Worship.

After researching the best way to go about this, and much back and forth with Verizon, we have the devices in hand and are working on setting them up for 30 of our Homebound members without internet. Our next meeting to activate the devices is October 28. If all is successful at that meeting, we will begin distributing them to our Homebound members.

These people will now be able to access the UPG website and attend Live Stream Worship. Stay tuned for more information about this exciting program.

GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS



God's work. Our hands. **Mat Ministry - SOS!!** We need many more hands to turn the plastic bags we've collected into plarn for those who are crocheting mats. The process is quite easy - take each bag, smooth it out lengthwise, fold it several times upon itself until you have a narrow strip, cut off the handles at the top (making sure to cut off any curved edges), cut off the seam at the bottom, fold the strip in half and cut at the folded edge, fold again in half and cut again at the folded edge. You should now have 4 strips that can be fastened together by looping the ends of the strips over each other and pulling gently to keep the knot as small as possible. Keep knotting strips together until they can be rolled up into a ball. Please save your plastic scraps and any bags that were not usable and bring them and your balls of plarn to the back porch of Light of Christ. You will see where to put them. Additional bags for making plarn are available on the porch at Light of Christ. PLEASE HELP - thank you! Linda Maule (610-258-5006) is available for any help you might need.

NEW BISHOP



It is with great pleasure that we share with you that this past weekend the NorthEast Pennsylvania Synod elected a new Bishop who will begin his ministry among us on January 1, 2021. We thank Bishop Samuel Zeiser for his incredibly faithful ministry among us as our bishop for the past 12 years. We look forward to sharing ministry with Bishop elect Christopher deForest. The Biography for Pastor deForest is attached.

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Sunday School will be held indoors 9:30-10:30 AM on our LOC Campus. Wearing masks is required.

Classes are held for children ages three by October 1st through adults. We welcome all!!! Please call or email Lynn Terry with any questions about our safety procedures lynnjt680@verizon.net 610-554-4090.

THIS WEEK IN THE UPG OCTOBER 31—NOVEMBER 8

Saturday October 31

4:45 PM Worship (Facebook)

Sunday November 1

All Saints Day

8:00 AM Worship (LoC)
9:30 AM Sunday School (LoC)
11:00 AM Worship (LoC)

Monday November 2

7:00 PM Coffee & Conversation (Zoom)

Tuesday November 3

9:00 AM Staff Meeting (Zoom)

Wednesday November 4

7:00 AM Fellowship Meeting

Thursday November 5

6:30 PM Bible Study (Zoom)

Friday November 6

Saturday November 7

4:45 PM Worship (Facebook)

Sunday November 8

8:00 AM Worship (St. JW)
9:30 AM Sunday School (LoC)
11:00 AM Worship (St. JW)