



# 'Till We Meet Again!

Week of November 14 and November 15, 2020

## THIS WEEK'S TWMA

This week's issue of 'Till We Meet Again is modified due to Kelly being out of the office until Thursday, November 12.



### REFLECTION FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2020

***<sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things. <sup>12</sup>Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity.[c] All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely. 1 Corinthians 13:11-12 (NLT)***

Greetings friends!

As I woke this morning to see the election results, or lack of election results, I could not help but to realize that we are now living out a basic tenet of our faith in real time! Of course, I could not help but have this passion to share this thought with you, so I thought, "what the heck! I'll write a bonus "Just for You!""

Fundamentally as Lutheran Christians, we believe that God has taken all the actions necessary to bring God's Divine reign fully into our lives. In other words, we believe that God has already completed everything, created the world, redeemed the world, and will fully establish God's reign among us. It is this basic tenet of our faith that leads all to respond in

worship; Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

My favorite seminary professor used to express God's actions this way; "It's already completed... but not yet fully revealed." Yes, my friends, think about it, God has already delivered us all... but this fact is not yet fully revealed as it will be for eternity.

This is exactly what my dear friend, St. Paul, is writing about in 1st Corinthians. The translation above is taken from the New Living Translation edition of the Bible. "Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity."

Hmmm... have you figured out how on this the first day after election day, you and I are getting to be affirmed in our faith by what is occurring right now in the world around us? Think about it, the votes have already been cast to determine who the next president of the United States will be in January of 2021. Short of foul play there is nothing that anyone should be able to do to change the votes that have been cast. So, the outcome of the election has already been determined... yet the election is not yet determined.

Welcome to Already... Not yet!

It is the time between everything being complete and the time that the completion can fully be viewed.

Our lives are spent in this "in between" kind of time. Therefore, we read Holy Scripture. Therefore, we actively engage in our community of faith. Therefore, we band together as sisters and brothers in Christ supporting, encouraging, and affirming each other in faith!

Life in this "in between" time can be

filled with struggles, trials, anxiety, but it can also have moments of great clarity. True and significant love demonstrated by those who surround us. The truth of God's Word displayed in our world. God understands both the joy of coming to know the truth that God is our true strength and refuge, and God understands the anxiety of not having this information fully revealed in the world in which we live.

So as we all anxiously await the official results of the latest US presidential election remember that God, Who created the very world and cosmos in which our mortal bodies reside; and God Who calls us each by name and loves us unconditionally, has already taken all the steps necessary to redeem the world back to Godself and is ultimately the One and Only God Who controls our destiny. In the meantime, remember this wonderful proverb:

***"Trust in the Lord with all your heart;  
do not depend on your own understanding.  
Seek God's will in all you do,  
and the Lord will show you which path to take."***

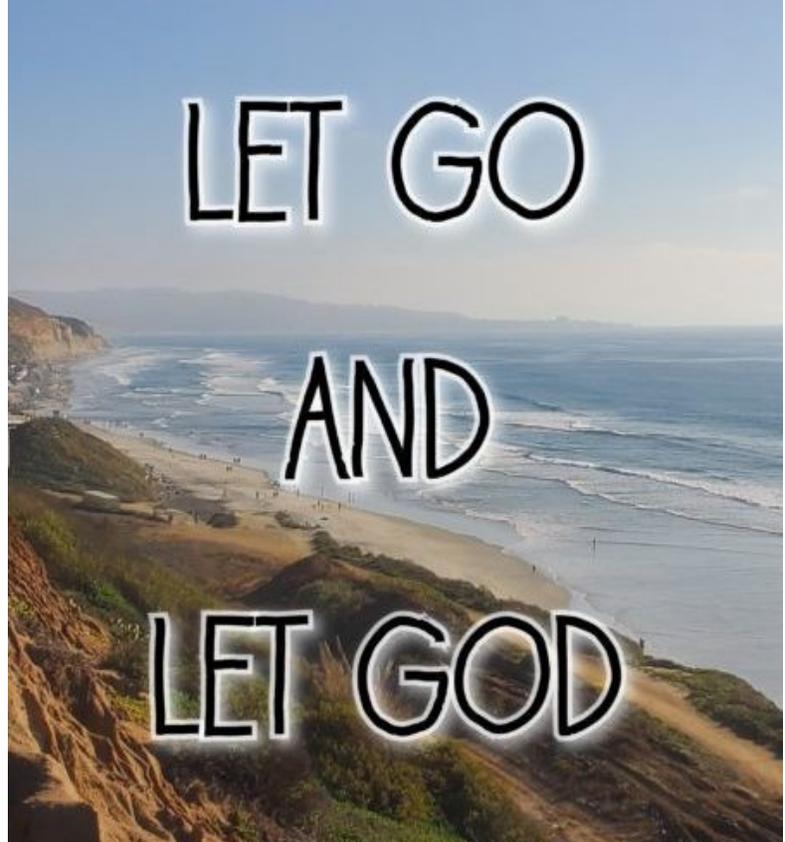
**Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)**

So, until next time,  
Keep trusting God, keep washing your hands, and be at peace my sisters and brothers!  
PJ



**CARDS FOR THE MILITARY**

The Bleier family extends their thanks to all who donated and even handmade Christmas cards to send to our military. We have received cards from our youngest children in Sunday school to those over 90! We collected and sent approximately 500 cards! We look forward to continuing this collection next year with even more cards!



**REFLECTION FOR THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2020**

**LET GO AND LET GOD!**

***"Be still, and know that I am God!  
I will be honored by every nation.  
I will be honored throughout the world."***

**Psalm 46:10**

Greetings Friends!

Here we are! Still waiting, still wondering! No definitive answer about the recent presidential election. But this we DO know. Based on how close the election has been, there will be nearly 50% of the general population of our community who will NOT be happy with the results of the election. As we remain in the time between time (... not yet), the anger among the general population keeps growing and growing (think Covid Crud!)

What's a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ to do under such circumstances?

Breathe! Yes, that right, breathe!

Let's take 30 seconds right now. Deep breath in (in your head say "Lord Jesus Christ"). Exhale (in your head say "have mercy on me"). Now repeat the breathing pattern. Come on; I promise this exercise will not hurt you. Let's do this five times... and GO!

Doctors have indeed proven that when

we get overly emotional, overly anxious, overly stressed, or overly exert ourselves, we mere mortals sometimes forget to breathe.

So how about when we see someone drop their mask when we think they should not; before we speak in anger... Let's breathe and say this breathing prayer in our head. When our neighbor celebrates the victory of their favorite presidential candidate that you abhor before you run your car into your neighbor's house... let's breathe and say this breathing prayer in our head. When our child comes home and brags they he/she voted for the candidate that you would spend a life time condemning, before we kick that child out of house... let's breathe and say this breathing prayer in our head.

I utilize this technique often to help curtail anger, of course being human, sometimes with better results than others. Then I take one more private action before I speak or act when I am angry.

Ready?

I remind myself that I am not in control. I remember that God's got this! God the Creator of the cosmos. God the One Who redeemed me and all of creation. God Who suffered mortal death and rose from the grave. God Who promises to come again to make all things new! God Who promises to never abandon us. Yes, that God will ultimately fulfill God's vision for the world. Signed, sealed, and delivered. Reminding myself of this simple fact allows me to "Let go... and let God do God's thing!"

So, the next time you are feeling that tinge of anger coming over you, do to the Covid crud, or a great disappointment, perhaps you too can try to breathe, remind yourself of our God and God's promises, and then let go and let God!

Until next time,

Keep trusting God, keep washing those hands and wearing your masks, and now more than ever before, be at peace for God will be honored by EVERY nation. God will be honored throughout the world.

PJ

## NATIONAL DONOR SABBATH



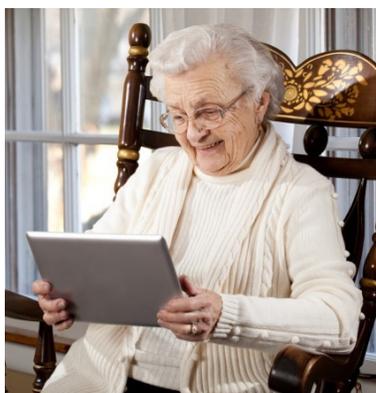
The Gift of Life Donor Program promotes its life-saving mission with a special appeal on the weekend of November 13-15. Please prayerfully consider if you wish to be an organ, tissue or cornea donor. In the past 50 years, organ transplants have saved 50,000 lives and 1.5 million people have received life-transforming tissue transplants. Many more people are awaiting a life-saving transplant. It's as simple as adding "organ donor" to your driver's license or calling 1-800-DONORS-1 or going online at [www.donors1.org](http://www.donors1.org). Join the heroes who have already signed up to give someone the Gift of Life.

## IMPORTANT MAT MINISTRY UPDATE



Until further notice, all buildings are closed. There will be no gathering at LoC to make mats on November 11. Please continue the project at home using the porch of LoC for pick up and drop off of supplies. A huge thank you to all of you who have worked on the mat ministry; 25+ mats are finished and we're continuing to work toward our goal of completing 50 mats. Keep calm and carry on!

## BRINGING IT HOME



As of publication of this issue, about one third of the Bringing It Home devices have been distributed bringing allowing our homebound members without internet to join us in watching the Live Stream Worship.

## IMPORTANT NEWS

Greeting my sisters and brothers in Christ!

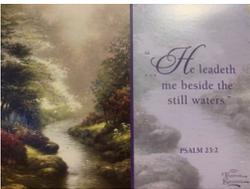
On Thursday evening the UPG leadership was notified that a member of our community of faith who was present at the 11 AM worship on **November 1, 2020** at the Light of Christ campus of the UPG, was with family members on Saturday who have now tested positive for Covid-19. At this point our sibling in Christ is showing no symptoms of being ill and will be tested for Covid on Friday morning. Should anyone who was present in worship at the 11 AM worship on November 1 feel ill, please immediately contact your physician and get tested for Covid. We keep all people in our community in thought and prayer and ask for your continued vigilance against this virus.

For now;

Keep trusting God, please keep washing your hands and wearing your masks, and be at peace.

PJ and PS

## FROM THE MAILROOM



St. Peter's Lutheran Church,

We give thanks to

God for your continued ministry during these difficult times of pandemic.

Praying you'll be refreshed today by God's Spirit - the source and supply of every blessing.

God's peace and blessings from the members of Jordan Lutheran Church, Orefield PA

Dear Pastor Kulp,

YOU are truly blessing our struggling neighbors here in the Greater Lehigh Valley!

Your heartfelt gift of \$333.75 on 10/23/2020 is already giving the men nourishing food, safe shelter, and clean clothing at the Allentown Rescue Mission. But more than just meeting their basic needs, you are providing an opportunity to experience God's abundant love firsthand!

I hope you also returned your signed Blessings Booklet with your gift. Thanksgiving

can intensify the feelings of loneliness and despair for those who are struggling with poverty, homelessness, and in some cases, addiction. Your encouragement can give someone the courage and support they need to take those first steps toward new life.

And as you prepare your own Thanksgiving celebration, please remember all the lives you have touched, people you have blessed, and gratitude that will be expressed because of your kindness.

Sincerely,

Rosaria M. Stoops, Development Manager



Tails of Valor, Paws of Honor Inc., Would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for your kindness and generosity to our organization.

Your contribution of \$333.75 will support and touch the lives of many animals and humans alike and will paws-ively influence many more lives in the future.

Thank you,

Heather LLOYD, Executive Director

## THIS WEEK IN THE UPG NOVEMBER 14—NOVEMBER 22

### Saturday November 14

4:45 PM Worship (Facebook)

### Sunday November 15

### Monday November 16

7:00 PM Coffee & Conversation (Zoom)

### Tuesday November 17

9:00 AM Staff Meeting (Zoom)

### Wednesday November 18

7:00 AM Fellowship Meeting

### Thursday November 19

6:30 PM Bible Study (Zoom)

### Friday November 20

### Saturday November 21

4:45 PM Worship (Facebook)

### Sunday November 22