



'Till We Meet Again!

Week of September 19 and 20, 2020



REFLECTION FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2020:

***For everything there is a season, and a time
for every matter under heaven:***

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Greetings my friends!

How fondly I remember the days of my youth! The picture above is taken at my Uncle Bob's bungalow. Several times a year the four "Hess children (Uncle Bob, Aunt Ruth, my mom, Aunt Mary Lou) their spouses and their children would head out to Uncle Bob's bungalow! We would celebrate Memorial Day, the 4th of July, and Labor Day at this "little slice of heaven."

The days were mostly the same; games, followed by a softball game with the "grownups", followed by more games, followed by a picnic supper, followed by the famous watermelon seed spitting contest... You get the drift. These days were a blast. I am sure that there must have been times when I was at one of these days and was in a bad mood or some tragedy occurred with one of my many cousins... but as I look back.... I simply cannot remember any bad memories from this bungalow.

What is more is that as much as I

enjoyed those times at Uncle Bob's bungalow there is no way, no how, that I can go back in time to recreate those days. No matter how much I may desire to return to a day when the most difficult decision of my day was whether or not I would have Aunt Ruth's chocolate cake or Aunt Anne's cookies for desert at dinner is gone forever. That is the way time is. For time continually moves forward.

Each moment in time becomes like a thread that weaves its way through the fabric of what becomes our life. We can "re-member (put together pieces)" of our past... but alas we can not re-live our past or even re-create our past simply because it is our past.

The global pandemic is now over six months in duration. In some ways it feels to me that time has temporarily "stalled." Yet I know this is not true. Every day that has occurred since the pandemic has commenced has carried with it its own memories, its own threads that have been woven into our collective lives. Within those threads there are good memories and yes there are memories that have challenged us, but the threads of these days are now woven into our collective lives.

Today I simply want to share what seems obvious and inherent. As mortal humans in our current capacities, we can only move forward through time, never backwards. We simply do not have the ability to "go back in time" to a day when our sanctuaries were "filled to the brim." We simply do not have the ability to "go back in time" when over 70% of the families in our country attended worship/Sunday school on a weekly basis. We simply do not have the ability to even "go back int time" to the day that Bishop Zeiser joined us at worship in a

grand celebration of his ministry in February.

So, what are we to do? How does God desire us to live?

In my humble opinion our Lord desires that we relish the love, the opportunities, the glory of each moment of time in our daily lives! I believe that our Lord is hopeful that we will see the many blessings of each day and that we will share the love of God with those who are living in the same time and places that we are living. I believe that our Lord desires that we recall the many threads in our life and can see how those very threads have helped form and shape us into the people we are today in this moment. Children of God who have been touched by the Divine, formed and shaped in this world, and loved and accepted through eternity by the One Who created each one of us!

Isn't it simply amazing? The God Who formed and fashioned the galaxies, the grandeur of the great mountains, the wonderful streams and valley's and all the animals that share this world with us. Yes God... thought that each one of us was necessary and important to join the tapestry of life in this time.

What an incredible time we are part of!

Keep trusting that God will see us through this time, keep washing those hands, and be at peace my fellow time travelers!

PJ

REFLECTION FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

PANDEMIC GRIEF

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God.



I live in a Homeowners Association and we have a pool that was not opened this summer. As you can guess it was closed because of the pandemic. The other day I drove by the pool, the cover never having been removed, and thought about all we missed this past summer. No swimming, no Musikfest, no Allentown Fair, no large picnics, and do not forget no indoor worship services. For some there were more dire consequences, no jobs, no paychecks, no health care.

So much about our lives has changed because of the pandemic. What started as a few weeks of lockdown to prevent the spread of COVID-19 has become a seven-month dramatic shift in our way of live that has no end in sight. We lost the ability to join together to celebrate Easter and if I dare say it, we might lose Christmas too.

With so many loses I started to think about all the grief we are experiencing. And as our individual loses continue to accumulate, the grief we experience becomes even more palatable. Elizabeth Kubler Ross wrote early on in her work with patients who were dying about the stages and nature of grief. Grief is tied to any loss we experience, not just death, we can grieve a lost job, home, school, even an important piece of jewelry, if we can lose it, we can grieve it. The greater the relationship or significance of the person or thing lost, the greater the grief.

Grief is a part of life and there is no

timetable to work through our grief. In the initial stages we could be sad or crying, find it hard to concentrate or sleep, have difficulty eating and many other physical and emotional affects. Over time we learn to live without the person or thing in our lives. We recreate our lives with the person or

thing no longer physically present.

If you are experiencing signs of grief related to how the pandemic has changed your life, you are not alone. It is also perfectly normal and expected that when we experience loss we will grieve. If you have been experiencing signs of grief you are in good company, most of us are experiencing these signs also. If you are feeling overwhelmed by grief and loss, please reach out to me or Pastor Jerry or your family or your family doctor. There is help available to guide us all through these challenging times. Please know that you never struggle alone. God is with you every moment of every day and you are surrounded by a loving community of faith. Together we help each other. We are always stronger together than any one of us is alone. May we be there for one another.

Have a day that matters!

Pastor Suzanne

LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS TRAINING

SEPTEMBER 19 AND OCTOBER 3



LCS will host two virtual trainings for Lay Eucharistic Visitors in fall 2020. Choose Saturday September 19, or October 3, 2020. Fee for the training is \$25. Those partici-

pating will be mailed a guidebook prior to the training. Participants will be asked to read sections of the text prior to the training day (instructors for both sessions are ELCA pastors). Instructors will be using Zoom to deliver the training, which will last about two hours. Participants will be asked to complete some follow up work and a final virtual check-in before the training certificate is issued. Training will include options for how to deliver the Eucharist in times of social distancing.

INGATHERING UPDATE

Christmas in July 2021 - This is the new date of the Bethlehem-Easton Mission District Christmas Ingathering (or possibly earlier if things

open up). Barbara Young, chair of the Ingathering, considers this the best decision right now due to pandemic concerns. The Lehigh Mission District is also following this plan. Our commitment is to collect toothpaste, lotion and women's personal care items. We will receive additional information about the date and location of the Ingathering and the date when the UPG parish and the congregation of St. John's Windish will begin to collect these items.

GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS



Please read these important updates on UPG Outreach from God's Work. Our Hands and Stewards, Angels in Ministry.

"Days" of Service - That's correct - this fall there will be several "Days" of Service instead of one specific day. When conditions are safe, we will schedule the Youth Car Wash (Josh Gulotta) and the Ft. Hill Cemetery Clean-up (Cindy Kemp). The same will be true of the intergenerational rock painting (Lois Ritchie). Dates to be announced later.

During the summer, Louise Fielding, Jean Finn, Elizabeth Elterich, Kathy Stephen and Helga Rimonneau have sewn and filled twenty-five bags with school supplies for Lutheran World Relief (funded by a Thrivent Action Team).



Mat Ministry - This is an important ministry in progress at home right now and we need many volunteers. The GWOH and SAM Teams are transforming plastic grocery bags into sleeping mats for the homeless. This Mat Ministry requires many hands to produce one mat measuring 2½ by 6½ feet. Around 500-700 bags have to be prepared into "plarn" and then crocheted. We need empty bags, many more volunteers to make "plarn" (very simple after watching a video that can be found on YouTube) and, after tying the plastic strips

together, roll them into a tight plarn ball, and volunteers who can crochet (a large Q or N hook is needed).

The back porch of LoC is being used as a drop off and pick up point for all supplies. You will find a blue bin for empty bags, a large black garbage bag sitting inside a box marked "plarn," and another large black plastic bag for the scraps that are left when you make plarn once the handles and seamed edges from the plastic bags are cut off. Please save all plastic scraps (including bags that have holes or are ripped) for Cindy Kemp who is helping our Moravian neighbors by collecting plastic. Our goal is to make 50 sleeping mats. Thanks for your help.

Questions: Linda Maule (610-258-5006) or LoC church office (610-691-2321).

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, 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 so the knot is as small as possible. Keep knotting strips together and then roll them up into a ball. Please save your plastic scraps and any bags that were not usable and bring them to the back porch of Light of Christ along with your balls of plarn. You will see where to put them. Bags for making plarn are available on the porch at Light of Christ or have been taken inside. Make arrangements to pick up bags with Sandy Horwath at LoC (484-666-1731) and she will happily supply you with as many bags as you need. PLEASE HELP - thank you!

CLEAN-UP AT FOUNTAIN HILL CEMETERY

Volunteers are needed (4-5 men for moving rocks from an area and women to help move a tarp to cover an area and clean roads) for a Day of Service - Sunday, September 20, at 1:00 PM. Please bring work gloves and meet at 12:45 PM in the parking lot of St. Peter's to carpool to the Cemetery. If you know the way, just arrive at the Cemetery at 1 PM.

Please contact Cindy Kemp (610-974-9487 or cindyk303@yahoo.com) and let her know you can help. Thank you in advance.



TRANSITIONAL TASK FORCE

We need Your voice, thoughts, and vision!

Our transitional task force is continuing their effort to create a working document that will help envision and focus what a potential unified community of faith might look like. Ultimately this document will allow all the people within our community to begin having discussions and dialogue on the possibility of unification. We are currently looking for people who might be interested in helping in very specific areas of ministry. If you might be interested in serving on one of the four teams listed below, please contact the church office by Wednesday September 16, 2020.

- Mission and vision
- Worship and music
- Developing active ministries of our envisioned community of faith.
- Assessing our current properties for the future need of our envisioned community of faith

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will begin on September 20, 2020 from 10:30-11:30 AM with our Rally Day celebration on the lawn of our Light of Christ Campus. Wearing a mask is required. Bring a chair! We will



hold the opening of Sunday School, followed by meeting in our class groups and ending with a surprise treat. Parents will register their children and may remain with us. We are very much looking forward to Sharing God's Love with all who attend.

NOW VIRTUAL...THE 5TH ANNUAL MONOCACY FARM FOOD FEST HAS A NEW DATE!

Visit Monocacyfarmproject.org, Facebook, or Instagram for more details or updates about our Online Auction which will Begin on Oct. 19 at 11:00 AM and end on Oct. 24th at 5:00 PM. Our popular goodie bags will be available for sale and go to all auction winners! There will be online info sessions and demos. All proceeds benefit the Monocacy Farm Project in Bethlehem, PA.

We're extremely grateful for your support. Thank you for helping to make our annual fundraising festival a success.

CLOTHING DRIVE

WHAT'S IN YOUR CLOSET?

Has Covid-19 given you the time to clean out your closets, but nowhere to donate your gently used items to? With Salvation Army & Goodwill Stores not currently accepting donations, you might be left "holding the bags"!

We Can Help!!

The youth of Jordan Lutheran Church (Vicar Jamie's home church) are holding a clothing drive. They invite you to bring your bagged items to the outdoor worship service held at the NE Penn Synod Office (2354 Grove Road, Allentown) where Vicar Jamie will collect them and take them to Jordan Lutheran Church. The items will be collected from Jordan Lutheran by a company that pays for the lump sum of items by the pound. All items are then sold inexpensively to thrift shops in third world countries, Mexico and even the United States. Items are not shredded or made into rags.

Drop Off Deadline: October 5, 2020.

The following items are accepted: Gently used

clothing and shoes (men's, women's and children's), purses, belts, backpacks, hats, scarves, briefcases, gloves, ties, blankets, table cloths, bed sheets, curtains and drapes, pillows, towels, quilts, comforters, stuffed animals, bicycles. No other items accepted!

Proceeds from the collection will be donated to Camp Noah on behalf of Jordan Lutheran and the UPG/St. John's Windish.

Camp Noah is a nationally acclaimed resiliency and preparedness day camp that brings hope to children living in communities impacted by disaster.



IN PERSON OUTDOOR WORSHIP

Sunday, September 20 at 9:00 AM (weather permitting) at the Lutheran Center in North-eastern Pennsylvania, 2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109-3044

Things to Bring: Chair (or you may stay in your car); Face mask; Sunscreen or umbrella for shade; Water or refreshments; clappers. Restrooms will be available to folks attending worship.

Directions: Exit Route 22 at the exit for the Lehigh Valley Airport, Route 987 north. Drive 1.5 miles to Grove Road on the right. Turn right on Grove Road. Drive approximately ¼ mile, and the Lutheran Center will be on the right. (If you are coming from Schoenersville Road, turn left on Grove Road. The center is located between Schoenersville Road and Airport Road.)

Call one of the church offices with any questions: Light of Christ Lutheran Church 610-691-2321; St. John's Windish 610-868-3282; or St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church 610-867-0519.

THIS WEEK IN THE UPG
SEPTEMBER 19—SEPTEMBER 27

Saturday September 19

4:45 PM Worship (Facebook)

Sunday September 20

9:00 AM Worship (Lutheran Center)
Sunday School Rally Day

Monday September 21

7:00 PM Coffee & Conversation
(Zoom)

Tuesday September 22

9:00 AM Staff Meeting (Zoom)

Wednesday September 23

7:00 AM Fellowship Meeting

Thursday September 24

6:30 PM Bible Study (Zoom)

Friday September 25

Saturday September 26

4:45 PM Worship (Facebook)

Sunday September 27

9:00 AM Worship (Lutheran Center)
Baptism

