

COVID-19 UPDATE #10
3/23/2020

Please share this information with friends, family, neighbors who don't have access to email.

Reminders:

- We are planning to have a live video update at 10:00 a.m. every weekday. It will be broadcast on Charter Channel 191, live-streamed on-line, and on Facebook Live.
- The live-stream can now be accessed simply by clicking on the "Worship" tab at the top of our church web site. We will be archiving those video updates at the bottom of the homepage under "COVID-19."
- To receive a notification that we are live on Facebook, please "Like" the St. Lorenz Lutheran Church and School Facebook page. For those of you who don't use Facebook, this might be a time you decide to make an exception.
- If you have a topic you'd like me to talk about, please let me know. You can just reply to this email to do so. Your reply is seen only by me. If you are having trouble reaching us through church@stlorenz.org (one person couldn't get that email address to work), feel free to email me: mbrandt@stlorenz.org
- Our Frankenmuth city leaders are doing an outstanding job of gathering information and ways to help. Please check these web sites for updates and resources:
 - www.frankenmuthcity.com
 - www.frankenmuth.org

Items from today's video update:

- Please accept our apologies (and be patient with us) for difficulties with live-streaming. We are looking into other ways to get videos archived. Facebook is working out quite well at the present time, although Facebook Live doesn't always work as we'd like. But you should be able to find the latest video on the St. Lorenz Facebook page.
- "Muth Means Courage." Great! Especially as it reminds us from where that courage comes. Implicit in the "Courage of the Franconians" are two words: "God is:" God is the courage of the Franconians, even as He is the comfort of the Franconians (Trost) and the help of the Franconians (Hilf) and the joy of the Franconians (Lust).
- Our callers are doing a great job! Our runners have a couple folks who have identified a need that we can help with. We have more runners available than are being put to work right now.
- Our call for volunteers has been met with outstanding results. As of right now, we have plenty. That could change, especially if this thing drags out. If you want to help but haven't already volunteered, please wait. We may come back to this.

Today's Topic:

“Why is God doing this?” (Part 2)

For starters, I don't think He is doing it.

We tend to think of all suffering as being bad, because it is never pleasant. Sometimes, though, suffering can bring about beneficial results. Best example: JESUS. And look what happened as a result of His suffering: His own resurrection, our salvation. Of course, He knew what the results would be before He suffered. We don't have that advantage. We do have the advantage of knowing the ultimate end of it all. That's what the Easter celebration is all about.

Sin is the ultimate cause of it all. God isn't responsible for sin. However, He has provided an eternal remedy for it in Jesus. Some will suggest this is God's way of punishing us (the world?) for what we've become and what we've been doing. NO.

God intervened in human history to address our greatest need – sin. Sin originated with God's decision to give humans the ability to make choices. Adam and Eve chose poorly, but God didn't remove choice. He has chosen not to intervene every day and to orchestrate every minute of our lives. He allows us to make decisions and choices of our own. He also gives others that same freedom. Sometimes their choices negatively impact us, in the same way that our choices sometimes negatively impact others.

At the end of the video update, I read and offered a few thoughts on a Bible passage. Here's that passage:

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

A thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me. . . . Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

- If you have a topic you'd like me to talk about, please let me know. You can just reply to this email to do so. Your reply is seen only by me. If you are having trouble reaching us through church@stlorenz.org (one person couldn't get that email address to work), feel free to email me: mbrandt@stlorenz.org

Thanks again for your patience and cooperation! We are truly blessed to have each other – and God – to be with in this time.

We continue to thank God for His faithfulness and the hope and confidence that gives us!

Remember: church@stlorenz.org If that doesn't work, email me at: mbrandt@stlorenz.org

652-6141