

COVID-19 UPDATE #9  
3/20/2020

*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](mailto:church@stlorenz.org) (one person couldn't get that email address to work), feel free to email me: [mbrandt@stlorenz.org](mailto:mbrandt@stlorenz.org)

Items from today's video update:

- 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](http://www.frankenmuthcity.com)
  - [www.frankenmuth.org](http://www.frankenmuth.org)
- Presentation of Faith will be presented on-line and on Channel 191 at 2:00 this Sunday. Confirmands have recorded their presentations – there will be NO live gathering at church. I am attaching a Word document to this message that contains the names and confirmation verse of our Confirmands.
- Confirmation service has been rescheduled for Pentecost – May 31<sup>st</sup>.
- 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.

Response to a suggestion received by one of our callers:

Could we place a mailbox outside the church office for members to place their offerings so they don't have to touch door handles to come into the office area? After considering that, we've determined that it would be impossible to monitor an outdoor receptacle and thus couldn't guarantee the security of items placed in it.

You should know that there are handicap door openers in the south entry to the church offices. You can push the button with your elbow and not have to touch any handles.

Today's Topic:

"Why is God doing this?"

For starters, I don't think He is doing it (I should have stated that more clearly in the broadcast), but we have no way of knowing for sure what is in His mind, except for His passionate, sacrificial love for us.

I also didn't mention these two points which might be helpful:

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.

God intervened in human history to address our greatest need – sin. 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.

I did mention the following:

We tend to think of all suffering as being bad, because it is never pleasant. Sometimes, though, suffering can bring about beneficial results. (Kind of a "no pain, no gain" type of thing.)

The better question than "Why is God doing this?" is "How can God use this?" We can't know IF He's doing it or why He's allowing it, but we can see how He is using this calamity:

- He is giving us incredible opportunities to serve;
- to help us review our priorities;
- to help us practice patience in the face of hardship and disappointment;
- to increase our time spent in prayer.

I spend more time talking about these things in the sermon already recorded for the weekend services.

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.

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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](mailto:church@stlorenz.org) If that doesn't work, email me at: [mbrandt@stlorenz.org](mailto:mbrandt@stlorenz.org)

652-6141