



Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church – 1125 Mahoning Street, Milton, PA 17847 – 570-742-7473
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church – 100 Mahoning Street, Milton, PA 17847 – 570-742-4601

Milton Lutheran Parish

Deacon Gary Schaeffer, Interim Pastor

Dear Friends,

It's overwhelming to think about how different our lives were just a week ago. What seemed like a distant concern has come knocking on our doors and barged into our lives. The experiences we are having now are like nothing we've ever experienced before. These events will shape our lives in profound ways that we have yet to comprehend. If one thing is certain, it is just how uncertain things have become.

It's time like this that we must be reminded of God's unwavering love and presence in our lives. I know it is hard for us not to gather in person. God has created us to be in relationship with one another. This virus has caused us to take drastic measures to ensure the health and well-being of ourselves and those around us. It has prevented us from being able to meet in person, but it will not stop us from being in relationship with one another and with God.

Along with my wife, Stina, I've developed this weekly devotional resource for you. I pray that it will allow you to experience God's grace in your lives and feel God's warm embrace during this time of uncertainty.

In addition to this resource Stina and I have created an online worship experience that you can participate in on Sunday. All you need to do is take some time on Sunday and visit our church website. There will be a worship video you can watch so you can worship at home. Our hope is to expand on this worship experience in the days ahead to offer new experiences and different kinds of worship.

You can access the website by following the link below or typing the link into your computer. If you do not have access to the computer, I encourage you to use this resource at your leisure as a way of taking some time away from the anxiety of the world and focusing on your relationship with God.

Church Website: <https://miltonlutheranparish.faith/>

In the days ahead you can also expect someone from our church council or myself; to give you a call, check-in, ask if you have prayer requests, and provide support. If you have an immediate need or just need someone to talk to please don't hesitate to give me a call. (845) 636-0194.

God's Blessings to all of you,

Deacon Gary



Worship Devotional

Sunday, March 22, 2020

Opening prayer:

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Readings (if you don't have a bible handy, biblegateway.com is a great resource. We use NRSV - "new revised standard version" as our translation for worship)

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm 23

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

Reflection:

Questions to talk about:

- What would be your first reaction if you witnessed something miraculous or impossible? (John 9:1-41)
- Do you believe one's faith and following Jesus today requires sacrifices? If so, in what ways? (1 Sam 16:1-13)
- What has God provided for you along life's journey for your strength, healing and inspiration? (Psalm 23)
- How do you know when something is "good and right and true" - pleasing to God in the world (Eph 5:8-14)

Pray the Lord's Prayer together

Bless one another saying:

May God bless you this week and always. AMEN

Resources:

Opening prayer: Sundaysandseasons.com #32232

Questions for discussion: workingpreacher.org