

Community

Presbyterian Church

of

Lac du Flambeau

Community Press

Vol. XVIII Issue IV
April 2020

To: All the “Good and Faithful” who share in the life and work of the Community Presbyterian Church of Lac du Flambeau, Wi.

Greetings!

As we close out the month of March and approach the month of April we are facing a situation we have never faced before. Throughout the country events, from the closing of schools to the cancellation of many church services—and almost everything else you may think of—is requiring us to be very creative as we all face this Coronavirus pandemic. Usually, I jest a bit about the weather and the return of our “snow-birds.” This year, however, we are deeply concerned about the health and safety of our friends and members. Since we are a congregation with so many retirees, we are especially susceptible to this powerful virus and must take every precaution. This is precisely why we have cancelled our worship services for the time-being and are putting them on the internet. The service, abbreviated, for March 22, 2020, may be found on our home page so that our parishioners may read, pray and reflect on the message for the day. We are also looking into setting up a “virtual” capacity so that we may, in the future, hopefully participate together in this manner until this crisis is over. Nevertheless, the work of the church goes on and we hope and pray you will do all you can to participate in our emergency measures to the fullest extent possible. I shall continue to prepare sermons, etc. and hopefully make it as interesting and challenging as possible.

Let me now turn to a very different subject, one, however, that is very significant to us and that is: what “is” the essence of the Christian faith. Very briefly, here are some of my thoughts.

As we celebrate our faith at different but equally significant times of the year, e.g. Advent, Christmas, Lent and Holy Week, from the beautiful and simple story of the manger to the

poignant entry of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a beast of burden, to His trial, beating and death, followed by the joy, grace, and love of the resurrection, it is incumbent upon us to open our hearts, spirits and minds to the power this faith may have in a world in desperate need today. We should diligently remember these events as the core, the basis, the essence of our faith, the foundation of our belief and that which gives our lives hope. We should reach out to all human beings regardless of race, gender, status in, or style of, life. And finally, we must embrace, reach out and care for a world which needs compassion, integrity and love.

It is never too late, nor is ever inappropriate, to reflect on these beliefs. We understand the ancient Anglo-Saxon word be-life to mean what a person lives by. We draw strength from our faith; we discover hope for our lives; we feel the grace and power of God who surrounds us as we think on all these things. But this is meaningless unless we convert our experience into reality, unless we actually live these values in our lives as truly and as often as we are able. We may not be able to accomplish great deeds; our talent and resources may be limited. But let me state clearly: no good deed, no concern for another human being is too small to be pleasing to God, to be of value in this life, or go unnoticed by those who see with the eyes of faith. The importance of this is made clear to us in the concluding verse of Paul’s great Hymn of Love in his first letter to the Christians of Corinth when in the mid-first century he wrote: “... faith, hope, love abide, these three: but the greatest of these is love.”

Demonstrating love, doing the good, sharing with those less fortunate are values and principles worth pursuing; they are things of beauty. The great English poet, John Keats, captured this thought magnificently when he wrote these immortal words in his masterpiece, Endymion:

A thing of beauty is a joy forever

Its loveliness increases; it will never
Pass into nothingness; but still will keep
A bower quiet for us; and sleep
Full of sweet dreams, and health, and
quiet breathing.

The Christian gospel, properly
understood and gently, kindly lived, is itself, "a
thing of beauty and a joy forever."

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Consequently let us be at peace; let us do the
good; and let us share this love with all we meet;
and may the grace of God surround us; the
strength and power of God uphold us; and the
love of God flow in and through us.

Until next time, as always,

Pax et Caritas,

Bill Anderson

NO SESSION NOTES from March 2020

No notes this month. Next Session
meeting will be determined according to the
COVID 19 Virus.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS FOR MARCH were:

March 1, 2019: Deb & Ron Wilke

March 8, 2019: Jillanne Consie

March 15, 2019: Edi Spellmeyer

**March 22, 2019: church cancelled due to
virus**

**Thank you all for your time, hard work and
contribution to the fellowship.**

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Sheryl Souhrada	April 6
Gary Beier	April 7
Merry Belle Beltz	April 13
Ellen Granger	April 15
Tyler Trobaugh	April 16
Judy Allen	April 19
Helen Sauer	April 22

Jan Gresmer

April 26

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Bill and Carolyn Anderson

April 13

Volume 3, Issue 4



In the absence of choral activity this past few
weeks, I thought I'd use the space in the
Newsletter to pass on a report from Jo Mayeau
concerning activity from Vilas County's Public
Health Department. They have issued a press
release declaring a public health emergency due
to COVID-19, and an inter-county travel
advisory. Vilas County is recommending that
people stay in their home area if they have a
seasonal or second home in Vilas County. They
are facing capacity problems concerning the
virus and can't handle much more traffic at their
health facilities. Oneida County has also been
added to this list recently. Let's all try diligently
to abide by the suggested procedures for
avoiding this plague and perhaps we'll conquer it
a little sooner than later.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Shugar, Music Director & Webmaster

APRIL 2020 SCRIPTURE READINGS

April 5, 2020

Palm/Passion Sunday

Holy Week Begins

Communion Sunday

Palms: Matt. 21: 1-11; Ps. 118: 12-, 19-29

Passion: Isa. 50: 4-9a; Ps. 31: 9-16; Phil. 2:5-11;

Matt. 26: 14-27:66 or Matt. 27: 11-54

April 6, 2020

Monday of Holy Week

Isa. 42: 1-9; Ps. 36: 5-11; Heb. 9:11-15;

John 12: 1-11

April 7, 2020

Tuesday of Holy Week

Isa. 49: 1-7; Ps. 71: 1-14; 1 Cor. 1:18-31

John 12: 20-36

April 8, 2020

Wednesday of Holy Week

Isa. 50: 4-9a; Ps. 70; Heb. 12: 1-3; John 13: 21-32

April 9, 2020

Thursday of Holy Week – **Maundy Thursday**
Exod. 12: 1-4 (5-10), 11-14; Ps. 116: 1-2, 12-19;
1 Cor. 11: 23-26; John 13: 1-17, 31b-35

April 10, 2020

Friday of Holy Week – **Good Friday**
Isa. 52: 13-53:12; Ps. 22; Heb. 10: 16-25 or
Heb. 4: 14-16; 5: 7-9; John 18: 1-19: 42

April 12, 2020

Resurrection of the Lord/Easter

Acts 10: 34-43 or Jer. 31: 1-6; Ps. 118: 1-2, 12-24;
1 Cor. 3: 1-4 or Acs 10: 34-43; John 20: 1-18 or
Matt. 28: 1-10
Easter Evening
Isa. 25: 6-9; Ps. 114; 1 Cor. 5: 6b-8; Luke 24: 13-49

April 19, 2020

2nd Sunday of Easter
Acts 2: 14a, 22-32; Ps. 16; 1 Peter 1: 3-9;
John 20: 19-31

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April 26, 2020

3rd Sunday fo Easter
Acts 2: 14a, 36-41; Ps. 116: 1-4, 12-19;
1 Peter 1: 17-23; Luke 24: 13-35

These readings are suggested by the Presbyterian Planning Calendar and may be changed depending on the topic of the sermon.

SPECIAL DATES

Holy Week	April 5-15, 2020
Palm/Passion Sunday	April 5, 2020
Maundy Thursday	April 9, 2020
Good Friday	April 10, 2020
Resurrection/Easter Sunday	April 12, 2020
Administrative Professionals Day	April 22, 2020

NOTICE

Fast forward.

Now, here comes this Coronavirus... it existed in animals only, for nobody knows how long...but one day, at an animal market, in Wuhan China in December 2019, it mutated and made the jump from ANIMAL TO PEOPLE. At first, only animals could give it to a person... But here is the scary part.... in just TWO WEEKS it mutated AGAIN and gained the ability to jump from human to human. Scientists call this quick ability, "slippery"

This Coronavirus, not being in any form a "human" virus (whereas we would all have some natural or acquired immunity), took off like a rocket!! And this was because humans have no known immunity...doctors have no known medicines for it.

And it just so happens that this particular mutated animal virus, changed itself in such a way that it causes great damage to human lungs.

That's why Coronavirus is different from seasonal flu, or H1N1 or any other type of influenza.... this one is slipperier AF. And it's a lung eater...And, it's already mutated AGAIN, so that we now have two strains to deal with, strain s, and strain L....which makes it twice as hard to develop a vaccine.

We really have no tools in our shed, with this. History has shown that fast and immediate closings of public places has helped in the past pandemics. Philadelphia and Baltimore were reluctant to close events in 1918 and they were the hardest hit in the US during the Spanish Flu.

Factoid: Henry VIII stayed in his room and allowed no one near him, till the Black Plague passed... (honestly...I understand him so much better now). Just like us, he had no tools in his shed, except social isolation...

And let me end by saying....right now it's hitting older folks harder...but this genome is so slipperier...if it mutates again (and it will). Who is to say, what it will do next.

Be smart folks... acting like you're unafraid is so not sexy right now, and frankly stupid and selfish.

#flattenthecurve. Stay home folks... and share this to those that just are not catching on.

FEEL FREE TO SHARE

For those of you thinking this is just the flu and no big deal VS all the people that die from the regular flu, and don't understand how this all started...this is a GREAT explanation and a must read:

From an immunologist at Johns Hopkins University...

Feeling confused as to why Coronavirus is a bigger deal than Seasonal flu? Here it is in a nutshell. I hope this helps. Feel free to share this to others who don't understand...

It has to do with RNA sequencing.... I.e. genetics.

Seasonal flu is an "all human virus". The DNA/RNA chains that make up the virus are recognized by the human immune system. This means that your body has some immunity to it before it comes around each year... you get immunity two ways...through exposure to a virus, or by getting a flu shot.

Novel viruses, come from ANIMALS...the WHO (World Health Organization) tracks novel viruses in animals, (sometimes for years watching for mutations). Usually these viruses only transfer from animal to animal (pigs in the case of H1N1) (birds in the case of the Spanish flu). But once one of these animal viruses mutates, and starts to transfer from animals to humans... then it's a problem. Why? Because we have no natural or acquired immunity. The RNA sequencing of the genes inside the virus isn't human, and the human immune system doesn't recognize it so, we can't fight it off.

Now sometimes, the mutation only allows transfer from animal to human. For years it's only transmission is from an infected animal to a human, before it finally mutates so that it can now transfer human to human. Once that happens, we have a new contagion phase. And depending on the fashion of this new mutation, that's what decides how contagious, or how deadly it's gonna be.

H1N1 was deadly, but it did not mutate in a way that was as deadly as the Spanish flu. It's RNA was slower to mutate and it attacked its host differently too.

Fast forward.

Until further notice there will be no need
for

Ushers, Liturgist or Coffee Hour Hosts
due to the COVID-19 virus. The church
has been temporarily closed. Stay inside
and be safe and watch and/or read
sermon(s) on line at ldfchurch.com.

Prayers and blessings to you all.

*As people of God and servants of our Lord Jesus Christ, we
believe our Mission to be the building of a strong fellowship,
ministering to the Spiritual and physical needs of the church, the
community, and the world fulfilling our Lord's command to "Love
our neighbors".*