

Theology on Tap Online
7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 30, 2020

As we stay at home to stop the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health of ourselves and others, our thoughts naturally turn to what we no longer can do, who we no longer can see, where we no longer can go, how much less we have now or may have as the situation stretches on week by week.

The fear, concern, stress, even grief about what we have lost and will continue to lose during this time are real. Our faith, regardless of how strong it may be, probably doesn't erase those feelings.

But our faith also may lead us to another line of thought, -- namely, thoughts about what **you** or what **we** might be gaining during this time. Don't get me wrong – I don't think COVID-19 is some sort of gift from God. I personally think God is right here with us in our heartbreak. But scripture also tells us that God has a way of using the most horrible situations to call people – to call us – to him, to her. To get us to realize things and act in ways that might not have occurred to us otherwise.

So when we gather for Theology on Tap Online at 7 p.m., Thursday, April 30, I hope you will share your thoughts about:

- What have you gained, what are you gaining or what could you gain – spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically – during this time when we are at home and apart from each other. What has opened up for you? What opportunities have you discovered? What have you realized that you haven't thought about before?
- What have WE gained, what are we gaining or what could we gain as the people of God at Immanuel Lutheran Church during this time. What do you think this time apart has revealed about our strengths as a congregation? What has it revealed about our weaknesses? What are we being taught about how to serve our neighbor?

Don't panic – deep thinking is not required! If what you have gained is an appreciation of the tulips in your neighbor's yard (as I have!), that's a real gain, and it's worth sharing.

Whatever your thoughts may be, I hope you will share them when we meet online at 7 p.m., April 30.

We'll be able to hear each other, so we'll have a process and a few guidelines in place to ensure that all of us don't talk at the same time.

Have your favorite beverage close at hand, and join us for fellowship and some thoughtful conversation. Until then, be well.