

Covenant News



August 2020

Pastor's Spin



Sisters & brothers in Christ of Covenant,

In a couple weeks, the wider church will further recognize and celebrate the work of Florence Nightingale, who died on August 13, 1910. Since 1965, though, her birthday of May 12, has been celebrated as International Nurses Day. And since she was born in 1820, the World Health Organization has claimed this 200th anniversary year of Nightingale's birth as the "International Year of the Nurse and Midwife." Some would say 2020 has not

been overly kind to the nursing profession with the coronavirus still rearing its rather ugly head. And yet, if only we knew all the stories of how nurses continue to serve humanity at their absolute worst, COVID-19 or not. One such story of Florence Nightingale in England may not only encapsulate her relentless dedication to caring for others, but for those who remain at work today.

When the Crimean War began in 1854, the British were unprepared to deal with the number of sick and injured soldiers. The lack of medical supplies, overcrowding, and unsanitary conditions caused many people to complain. Newspapers began to report about the terrible state of medical care. The Secretary of War, Sidney Herbert asked Nightingale to manage a group of nurses that would go treat the wounded soldiers. She agreed, and on November 4, 1854, Nightingale and 38 nurses arrived at the British camp outside of Constantinople. When they got there, the doctors were unwelcoming because they did not want to work with female nurses. However, as the number of patients increased, the doctors needed their help. The nurses brought supplies, nutritious food, cleanliness, and sanitation to the military hospital. They also provided individual care and support. Nightingale was known for carrying a lamp and checking on the soldiers at night, so they gave her the nickname "the Lady with the Lamp." Within six months, Nightingale

*and her team transformed the hospital. The death rate went down from 40 percent to 2 percent because of their work. **

For those of us who have been patients in the hospital setting, or wherever else, we often appreciate those Nightingale-equivalent “Lady with the Lamp” moments: the nurses who check in on us without fail, those we develop a connection with over those brief, but incredibly important, moments, share our vulnerabilities, unleash the much needed humor to diffuse the not-overly-pleasant situation. But, of course, it wasn’t just the personal social component of patient interaction for Nightingale. She was an advocate for those in desperate circumstances, holding other medical professionals to a higher standard of care, including through the sanitary conditions to stave off seemingly unstoppable infections.

Many nurses serve as such advocates for their patients today, including for those who have no family of their own. And many of those nurses working in emergency rooms, intensive care units and beyond, will be quick to point to the work of others to ensure the healthiest and safest environment for those in need: medics, technicians, respiratory therapists, those who clean the rooms. All with their own personal contribution so that we may heal and experience a gift of new life that may not be possible otherwise.

Of course, that personal attention to others is not limited to the medical profession. All children of God are called to go above and beyond the bare minimum expectations in caring for one another. Our Baptism calls us into such a service as a present-day disciple of Christ. At confirmation, when we personally affirm that baptismal vow, it gets kicked up a notch in our individual responsibility realm. When we take Communion, the gifts are meant not just for our own spiritual healing, of sorts, but to nourish us with a renewed jolt of love and compassion for those around us, empowered by the encapsulation of that insistent sacrifice in Jesus Christ.

This year has most certainly tested how much we are willing to bring out a lamp of awareness to see and hear others’ pain and anguish, not just in terms of wanting to keep our physical distance, but with our all-around patience and tolerance to bear someone else’s burdens beyond our own. And when we offer our prayers to God to care for such people, God may just use that transformative moment of a personal connection with the Divine to light the path ahead of us, so that we may do our part, too. Nevertheless, we give thanks for the witness of Florence Nightingale, and for those who continue to do their part not just in 2020, not just with COVID-19, but throughout a lifetime of service for those in desperate need of hope, and even just a semblance of care at the side of a bed. God be with them all! Amen.

In Christ,
Pastor Brad

Image: “Miss Nightingale in the Hospital in Scutary,” 1856 (c). Colored lithograph by Max and Simeon A Beeger. No 2 in the series ‘Les Actualites.’

* Alexander, Kerri Lee. “Florence Nightingale.” National Women’s History Museum. 2019. www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/florence-nightingale.

Happy Birthday

8/8 Carolyn Frajter

8/11 Ann Droste

8/13 Nealie Gage

8/16 Marie Zahn

8/17 Christopher Constant

8/17 Arlene Stoltz

8/19 Douglas Pekar

8/21 Jane Skowronski

8/28 Jeff Garvin

8/31 Alex Hohenstein

8/11 Jim & Jane Gradert

8/20 Alex & Paula Hohenstein

Anniversary Blessings



Happy 64th Anniversary!

Happy 59th Anniversary!

8/12 Chuck & Barb Gaglione

Happy 48th Anniversary!

8/20 Jim & Arlene Stoltz

Happy 21st Anniversary!

8/14 Ben & Deena Gaglione Hernandez

Happy 10th Anniversary!



For the time being, we intend to continue worshipping from our back parking lot. We understand this is not ideal, but we believe this as the safest way to worship together as a large group, while also continuing to sing, a treasure many of us cherish in giving thanks to God. We encourage you to use the driveway from Libby Road, and stop by the table by the side office doors. There, you will find a bulletin, as well as trays of plastic cups with lids that will be stacked in pairs. The top cup will be wine or grape juice, and the bottom will be the wafer. There will be signs labeling the grape juice cups, as well as cups with gluten-free wafers. This is, again, for everyone's benefit in keeping our recommended distance from each other, and not needing to come forward for Communion.

When you are parked in the parking lot, you may remain in your car, if you wish; or, you can bring your own chairs and setup anywhere (including, under the shaded trees) while making sure to keep the CDC-recommended six foot distance from those not of your respective household. We, also, ask, if you leave your vehicle, to wear a mask. An offering basket will be place up-front by the worship leaders, if you wish to make a contribution that week (you may, also, mail them in or do so electronically). If it rains, we intend to still worship outside, as we believe the speakers can be made loud enough to hear from inside your vehicles.

If anything changes, we will be sure to e-mail, update our Facebook page and website, as well as initiate a phone chain through the Covenant groups that were setup at the beginning of this pandemic. Again, we know this is not ideal, but we hope this will best allow us to worship safely, and still, beautifully! We greatly appreciate your patience and understanding!



A special thank you to Jen Lasher-Dobush for recording the worships from the parking lot. They are now available to view from our website. Please go to covenantmaplehts.org and click on the News tab.

Disaster as a Means of Love

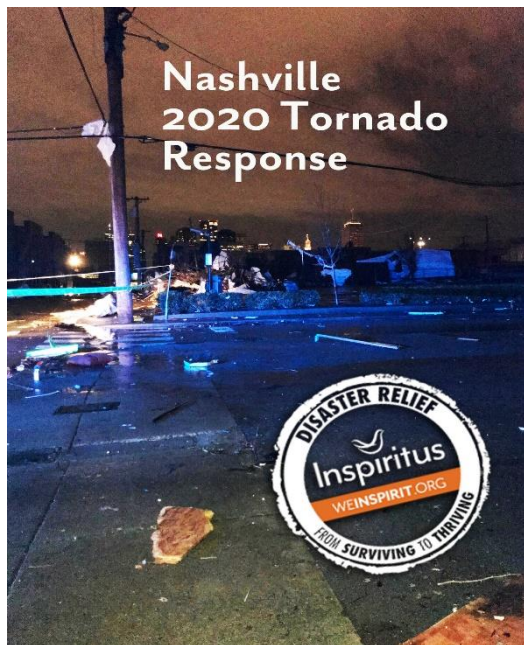
Disaster Strikes

On March 2-3, 2020, Tennessee was battered by a series of tornadoes. Inspiritus, an affiliate social ministry organization of Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR), was one of the first response groups to arrive on the scene in Cookeville, TN, which was devastated by an EF2 tornado.

Four months later, the impacted communities are moving into the long-term recovery phase and Inspiritus continues to coordinate on-the-ground response efforts and plans to remain engaged until the community recovers fully.

In the days following the tornadoes, volunteers flooded into Cookeville to lend a hand. The first weekend brought a total of 3,000 volunteers from various organizations, including Inspiritus, although that number fell during the week, which is normal for disaster response. For the next

couple of weeks, the number of volunteers averaged from 50-80 people on weekdays and about 100 per day on the weekends. But in the beginning of April, the governor of Tennessee issued a stay-at-home mandate for the state in an attempt to minimize the spread of COVID-19, and the number of volunteers plummeted to the single digits. With physical distancing measures in place, Inspiritus had to adapt – fast.



New Rules, Same Game

Kevin Burgess, Inspiritus' construction lead in Cookeville, worked with the leadership team and volunteer teams to quickly develop and adopt strategies to protect both volunteers and tornado survivors. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is now required, and volunteers do not enter the homes of residents unless necessary for repair work, so any socialization with residents occurs outdoors. Burgess also placed a limit on the number of people allowed in the Volunteer Reception Center at one time. However, these rules don't change the mission of the disaster response.

"Because when you're going to work with an 80-year-old retiree, you don't want to risk the chance of sharing a communicable disease with them," says Burgess. "It becomes more and more about the people. That's always been one of my high priorities – the people come first. Through the pandemic, that was just amplified."

Inspiritus limited their work groups to eight volunteers and chose to focus on using heavy machinery to clear debris. This allowed volunteers to isolate themselves from others but still do their work efficiently. The use of heavy machinery also helped with another strategy – bringing debris to the streets. Government workers typically cannot pick up debris from private properties, so the contractors hired by the Tennessee government cleared wreckage from the tornadoes on public roads. Volunteers from groups such as Inspiritus play a key role in maximizing taxpayer resources to make the tornado response as efficient as possible by moving otherwise unreachable debris from private property to the public right-of-way.

People Helping People

As work continues in Cookeville, and in every community in which LDR affiliates work with after disasters, the people are always the focus. According to Burgess, “The heart of Inspiritus is not to come and put a band-aid on it, but we want to come and see people restored, back in their homes, and thriving.” Currently, Inspiritus is finishing up immediate relief and debris clean-up and looking ahead to long-term recovery in the area. With the pandemic still an issue, the recovery phase will also look different from in the past.

Luckily, Burgess has a passionate group of dedicated volunteers and a leadership team to get the work done. Many members of the leadership team have full-time jobs, yet they still find ways to concentrate on tornado relief and recovery. The assistant director of the Inspiritus response team in Cookeville is Randy Adams, who is also working his full-time telecommunications job remotely from the disaster headquarters. His wife, Debbie, works as a case manager for Inspiritus. The volunteer coordinator, Johnny Harrison, is a local middle school teacher; with schools switching to remote learning in the spring, he took the time to give back to his community. Burgess emphasizes that the volunteers, from all groups and faith-based organizations, are truly the heart of disaster response.

“The laborers in the field are Lutheran, Methodist, Pentecostal, Baptist, Mennonite, Amish. We have had all different denominations. This is not an individual denomination, but this has truly been a body of Christ coming together and ministering together and not worried about who gets the credit. And it’s just a beautiful, beautiful way that I believe the Lord can take disaster and crisis and turn it into a means of love.”

Prepared to Care

After disasters in the United States and around the world, LDR affiliates and ecumenical partners such as Inspiritus accompany communities in immediate relief, long-term recovery, and resiliency projects. From clearing debris and rebuilding homes to planning for future disaster mitigation, LDR and its affiliates take the necessary steps to accompany communities in upheaval through hope, healing, and renewal. As demonstrated by the volunteers of Inspiritus and other affiliates, Lutheran Disaster Response is prepared to care.

- Louisa Ishida, Program Communicator for Lutheran Disaster Response
Posted July 28, 2020 at Lutheran Disaster Response Blog Homepage
<https://blogs.elca.org/disasterresponse/>

God, our peace and our strength, we pray for our nation and the world as we face new uncertainties around coronavirus. Protect the most vulnerable among us, especially all who are currently sick or in isolation. Grant wisdom, patience, and clarity to health care workers, especially as their work caring for others puts them at great risk. Guide us as we consider how best to prepare and respond in our families, congregations, workplaces, and communities. Give us courage to face these days not with fear but with compassion, concern, and acts of service, trusting that you abide with us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers for Times of Public Health Concern: COVID-19/Coronavirus. Copyright © 2020 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The Lutheran Church of the Covenant

August 2020

Server Schedule	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
							1
AG: Rusher, Senderak, Susanek	2 9:00 Eucharist in Parking Lot	3	4 1:00 Worship & Music Meeting	5	6	7	8
AG: Rusher, Senderak, Susanek	9 9:00 Eucharist in Parking Lot	10	11 7:00 Council Meeting	12	13	14	15
AG: Garvin, Zahn, Garberich	16 9:00 Eucharist in Parking Lot	17	18	19 Set up for Shatoya's Grace Clothing Giveaway in Parish Hall	20 Set up for Shatoya's Grace Clothing Giveaway in Parish Hall	21 Set up for Shatoya's Grace Clothing Giveaway in Parish Hall	22 10-5 Shatoya's Grace Event in Hall
AG: Garvin, Zahn, Garberich	23 9:00 Eucharist in Parking Lot	24	25	26	27	28	29
AG: Werner, Copeland, Hohenstein	30 9:00 Eucharist in Parking Lot	31					

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