

Eastern Mission

Apostolic Lutheran Church of America

June 2020

Greetings of God's Peace to all:

We come into this Summer season in which so many look forward to spending time with families, friends and our church family. We plan vacations around the season and make plans to attend our National Convention. This year however; many plans have been changed and many events postponed or canceled including our Convention. For so many; this is a summer of uncertainty. There have been so many restrictions put on gatherings, attending Sunday Church services as well as weddings and Funerals. How many that we know, including ourselves, have worry about what the next few months hold. We do not know, God Knows. Jesus told us in **Mathew 6/34** that we should not worry about tomorrow but take care today. In this we must look to God, and put our trust in him for he directs our steps as we are told in **Proverbs 3/5-6: [5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.](#)** We may not understand but we also can study that God tells us, his ways and his thoughts are not our ways and thoughts. His thoughts and ways are higher than ours. (**Isaiah 55/8-9**).

It can be difficult at times for us to stay focused and keep our trust in the Lord when we hear so many accounts of what is happening. Whether true or not; it can weigh on people's thoughts and hearts and we may forget to put full trust in the Lord. We know that God's ways, are always for Good. Here again we must Trust in his Goodness. In our trials in life, our blessings are greater when we get through a trial. In times of trial is where we need the strength of God in our hearts and souls for the evil one revels in confusion and finds weakness in our confusion. The evil one seeks this weakness and attempts to deceive us into thinking the ways of the world will solve our worries and concerns. Yet we must know that God is not a God of confusion, but of Love and Goodness. When we begin to feel this stress and confusion; call upon the Lord and he will hear your petitions. He will be with us in our struggles. Open your hearts and keep him first in heart and mind and the evil one will flee. There is no room for evil when we are filled with the Spirit of God. This is a difficult and time of unknown but God is with us. We see his blessings. He will take care of us in every way.

Our lives have had change in this time of Corona Virus yet we must not look at it as a curse but instead what blessings can we find in it and what is God showing us each day. It has become more difficult to gather, but we still have this great technology that he has provided us with that we can share his Word with the World. This technology reaches all places in the World and many that we do not even know can have the Word put into their hearts, that maybe even one lost sheep will be returned to the Flock and we can rejoice in this.

Jesus said in the last two verse of Matthew 28: [19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.](#)

Jesus gave unto us a mission to teach repentance and remission of sins, and he provided a way for us to do this in this time of quarantine. This is a blessing that we can do this. So many have renewed and strengthened their relationships with God. So many families have become closer to each other in this. In our lives we have become more aware of our personal health and safety. Our nature is cleaner. We will gather again in our churches, but forget not what this time of stay at home has done for us, in goodness and blessings. Count Your blessings each day. Be thankful. We have become weary, and in **Matthew 11/28**: Jesus said come to me ye who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest.

In our lives, whether we stay at home or when we are in the community, our lives should be a shining example of God's Love, of our Faith and what Jesus did for us on the cross. He gave us life, he buried death, so we can have the hope of eternity to live by. Shine the light of Jesus unto the world, in everything we say or do. We are told Preach the Word, tell the story of Jesus, and by this we praise and honor him in our lives. Show it to the world. Rejoice for we have Jesus with us until the end of time.

We close with Acts 1/8: [8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.](#)

This is not only for the disciples but we too have been given that very same Spirit, we have the Power of God, we have his Word, we have the Spirit within us, go out and witness for Jesus, embrace this gift we have been given.

God's Grace Mercy and Peace be with you all,

Jon Salo
Pike, MN