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What's Going On

Trinity's Transformation

Many changes have been going on since the start of this Covid-19 Virus. Key people at Trinity have been taking a crash-course in creating on-line viewing. We give thanks for the efforts of Pastor and Cathie Snider, Kristin and Mike Myher, Greg Eppler, Linda Freeman, the Swanson family for our ability to continue to worship together still.

Bible Study is available on Sunday mornings at 9:00am via Zoom. If you would like to join in, comment on Trinity Lutheran Church facebook page and you will receive a link.

Regular meetings have been taking place but by video phone which we are getting the hang of. Unfortunately, we cannot make many plans right now. We are focusing on electronic giving, tweaking our service technologies and stewardship of Trinity.

If you have any needs, please call the church for help. 734-878-5977 and leave a message. It WILL get to us.

The Corona-virus Parable

If you love the Lord and have any passion for lost people to know the Savior, maybe you will catch THE key takeaway that reflects the mission strategy of the Christian movement. If you're like most Christians—if our church is like most churches—if we get this, it will radically revolutionize the power and potential of our spiritual influence and impact. The corona-virus is, perhaps, the most vivid outreach lesson you will get in your lifetime. (We all pray it will never happen again.)



Photo by [Brooke Cagle](#) on [Unsplash](#)

However, if we are a disciple, a learner, if we are eager—even passionate—to reach our unchurched neighbor for Christ, it is my hope and prayer this pandemic will revolutionize our thinking about sharing Jesus. My hope is that God will so impact our thinking; it will keep us up at night—until we get it. Until we change the way you do church. Until we do it the New Testament way.

“The power and platform of the mission is relationships. ...their church is the a refrigerator...”

The pandemic has been awful. That is obvious. So much death, So much disruption, So much distraction. Is there any good that can come out of this? That depends on whether or not we have learned the most dramatic mission parable you will likely ever experience. What you do with it is not just your business. It is the Lord’s business!

I pray I have your attention. No, I pray God has your attention. Look, what have you learned? This pandemic is all about a virus—an unseen powerful bug. It is a virus that goes viral. How? People catch it from other people. How? When they are up close and personal; The potential of this evil virus reflects the power of relationships. How do you stop it? Social distancing; Surely we all, now, get that!

Now, think about another one of the most spectacular viral movements in all of history: the growth of the New Testament church. How did Christianity explode across the Mediterranean world in the first century? It is not rocket science! The faith went viral because the people in those days did not have refrigerators! They also did not have radios, televisions, the internet, or phones.

Without refrigerators, people had to go to the marketplace every day—or at least several days a week. Christian historians and mission experts have already figured this out. When these first-century people received what was not some good news, but THE Good News about Jesus—the One who changes life and eternity—they “gossiped” the Gospel. The faith spread like wildfire. It went viral. It was a Good News pandemic. They gossiped the Gospel in the marketplace. So what is the key lesson staring every Christian in the face right now—all over the world?

The power and platform of the mission is relationships. Not only that, but (and I don’t mean this unkindly) most Christians don’t realize that their church is the refrigerator. It is where you keep Christians fresh—keep them from “spoiling.” It’s a good thing!

However, if you want your church to impact this world in a major way, you need to turn it inside out. The platform is relationships in the marketplace, not just in the refrigerator. I love the relationship glue with other Christians at church. It’s called fellowship. But that isn’t the mission platform that goes viral. People contagious with the love of Jesus need to “infect” people where they are. Being “church-centered” is spiritual social distancing.

Here's a mission prescription from The Church Doctor.

1. Don't invite un-churched people to church. Most secular people aren't ready for worship.
2. Invite them to dinner at your home along with some other Christians from your church. Ask these Christians to bring some unbelievers, as well. Don't feed them the Bible for dessert. Instead, let your Christian friends share what God has done in their lives. For people far from God, relational impact is more powerful than preached sermons.
3. When unchurched people show interest in your church, do not invite them to worship, take them. Sit with them. Take them somewhere for a meal afterward. Let them debrief—

"Who's Doing It?"



Apr. 21, 2020

Acts 2:14, 36-41 - But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the Name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself." And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

It's a good thing Peter wasn't preaching in front of a crowd of Lutherans that day! For he says a lot of things that make us feel very awkward. To the question, "What shall we do?" Peter does *not* say, "Sit back and relax, the Holy Spirit will do everything." No, he says, "Repent and be baptized ... Save yourselves from this crooked generation." And right away our ears prick up and we think, "Wait a minute! Isn't it true that God does all the saving, and our own efforts are no use at all?"

Well, of course. And Peter knows that. He is an apostle, after all! But he is using what some people call "Gospel imperatives"—words that say "do this" and "do that," but in fact the action—and the credit!—is still all with God.

Let's take an example of the same thing from Jesus' own mouth. Standing at His friend's tomb, Jesus calls out, "Lazarus, come out!" Now that is not at all a sensible thing to say. A dead man cannot hear or respond. And yet it happens—because the Holy Spirit has restored Lazarus to life and

Portals of Prayer

These can be picked up in the bench in front of the church. You can also get Lutheran Witness and on or two other magazines.

If there something in particular you would like, please call the church (734-878-5977) and let us know. It will also then be in the bench.



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action.

This is a great picture of what the Holy Spirit does for us and for all people who are spiritually dead and come to faith in Jesus. He gives us life, plants faith in our hearts, and makes us God's children through Baptism. Peter may be addressing the listeners, but he knows perfectly well who's doing all the work. And so do we—the same God who created us, suffered, died, and rose for us, and planted living, saving faith in our hearts.

THE PRAYER: Dear Lord, thank You that You have done for me what I could not do for myself, and have made me Your own living, believing child. Amen.

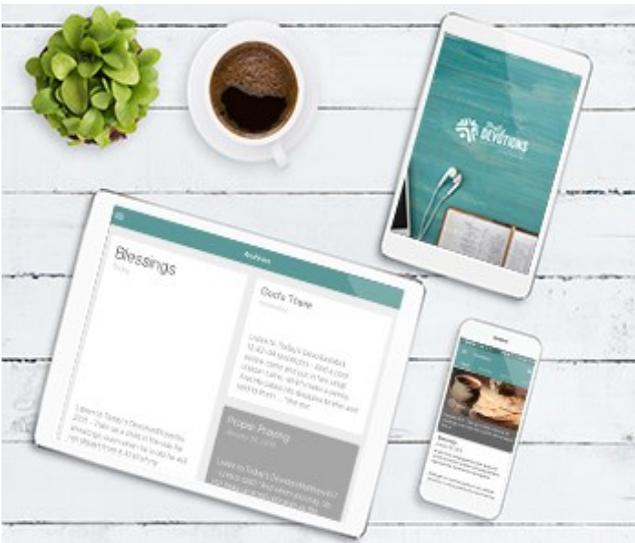
This Daily Devotion was written by Dr. Kari Vo.

Reflection Questions:

1. Have you ever talked to someone who cannot respond to you? When and why?
2. Why do you think people talk this way—giving orders to babies, to people on TV, to loved ones who are absent but on their minds?
3. When did God bring you into His kingdom and make you His child?

Today's Bible Readings: [Judges 19-21](#) [Luke 16](#)

Instructions are available for downloading MP3 when you want to listen.



You can now access Lutheran Hour Ministries' **Daily Devotions** on your mobile device by using the new Daily Devotions app!

- Inspirational Scripture-based messages at your fingertips every day
- Season-themed devotions during Advent and Lent
- Read the devotion text or listen to the audio version

Share the devotion with a friend using Twitter, Facebook or e-mail

VOTERS ASSEMBLY
Trinity is due to have a voter's assembly in May.
Watch for details about how and when we will do this
Included on the agenda will be voting on new officers
Please prayerfully consider serving the lord in one of the available positions