Date: Sun, Mar 22, 2020

GOOD NEWS:The sun rose this morning!!  And even better news -- it's going to rise again tomorrow morning!!!!  Thinking the pressure and stress has gotten to me, right?? 😁.Noooo.....I just want us all to remember that  GOD is still in control and sovereign over all, and HE is as dependable as the rising of the sun.  FAITH is laying hold of that assurance every minute of every day.

Today, Sunday the 22nd, we began a three part sermon series on how to grow  through this crisis  in FAITH,  HOPE, AND LOVE.

I gave you SIX texts and meditations, one for each day between today and next Sunday.

**Monday:** John 14: 27 "Jesus said, Peace I leave with you, My peace I give you.  I do not give you as the world does.  Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.".  We all want some peace right now, peace of mind, peace in our hearts etc.  We look for reassurances from our government, which I personally think is doing a great job with daily briefings etc. BUT peace doesn't come from the government.  Peace comes from a personal relationship with Jesus.  Use these texts as GOD'S DAILY  briefing TO YOU!  Therein you'll find peace.

**Tuesday**: I Peter 5:7: "Cast your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you. "  As children we are content to "go along for the ride" with our parents because we know they love us and we are secure in their care.  So it can be with you and God.  He CARES for you because He LOVES  you, and that's why we need not be anxious

**Wednesday**:  Matt. 6:34.  " So then  do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself.  Today has enough trouble of its own." Don;t buy into the fear and anxiety caused by news reporters who ask every day "When is this going  to end?"...REALLY??  This is a pandemic for goodness sakes -- no none knows how long it will last!  But GOD does, so lets let HIM worry about that.  You and I need to FOCUS on the day in front of us.  Plan, YES.  Worry, NO.

**Thursday** Jeremiah 17: 7-8 "Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him.  They will be like a tree planted by the water that send out its roots down to water.  It does not fear when the heat comes, its leaves are always green.  It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."  I used as an illustration this morning a grove of trees planted by a member of Selbu Lutheran Church in WA, I preached there about three weeks ago.  In the midst of an otherwise tree-less landscape, there is this grove of huge tress that now need no watering because their roots have gone DEEP.  Find you self anxious or worrying?  Check your roots, are they DEEP in the Lord? Cultivate a daily, even hourly, relationship with Him and you will not fear spiritual drought OR pandemic.

**Friday**:  Joshua 1:9. "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous!  Do not be terrified or intimidated.  For the Lord you God is with you wherever you go!.  "  I hesitated to say this today, but I really think that when we choose to NOT trust in the Lord, to worry in front of Him, I believe we are insulting Him.  He COMMANDS us to trust Him!  Lets do it!!

**Saturday** Psalm 56:3  "When I am afraid, I put my trust in You".  This is our memory verse this week.  Recite it at every stop light, every pause in your  day.  Let this Word of God and all the texts above, permeate/soak in to your heart and every moment of you life this week!

Guess what?? The sun will rise tomorrow morning. 😊 When it rose on Easter Sunday, God had changed the world, OUR world, by defeating death and ANYTHING that might separate us from HIM -- even pandemics!!  TRUST HIM!!

Next week we will share texts and preaching on **HOPE!**   I'll try to have a handout ready for you to follow along 🤔.

At this point in time, we will continue our plans for child and adult Baptisms next Sunday (yes we'll be spreading out:).  We also still plan to go to the Stations of the Cross outing next Saturday, meeting at the church at 8:30 am.  Since we will not be a large group and we can bring sack lunches we should be okay, BUT stay tuned to announcements this week.

Review the sermon on Facebook (Living Word Lutheran Church Kingman) and share it.

May the God of all comfort, power, control, and grace, bless and keep each and everyone of you this week.....

Pastor

Rev. Michael W. Birnbaum