

Bethany Free Lutheran Church Newsletter AUGUST 2020

Let God Have the Remote

“We need to get control of this virus.”

Health officials have said this. Government officials have said it. Measures get implemented to try to take charge over where the virus spreads and how it spreads. Different opinions exist over the effectiveness of the measures, but one thing seems clear: we don't have control the way we wish we did.

It is not just the virus that we lack control over. Parents may try to control what type of people their kids turn out to be, but their control is limited. We think we have control of our finances and then a trial comes with unexpected costs. We can exercise and eat right and try to control our body's health, but we still get sick. Our control of things is far more limited than we want to admit.

“Be still, and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10). Be still, and know that God is in control, and we aren't. The Lord is the One who is over the waters and the mountains and who “lifts his voice, the earth melts” (v. 6). The Lord is the One who is far exalted over all the nations of the earth. “He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth” (v. 9). Be still, and know who is the Almighty. It is not us. The Lord is the One who has all power and authority.

In our pride we want to be in control of our lives and our future. It is humbling to admit we aren't, and it would be a disaster if we were in control. Be still, and give up trying to control everything. Be still, keep praying, but don't think you have to tell God what He ought to do. Be still, and trust that God

knows what he is doing. God will be exalted. He reigns now and He will reign forever.

Even when the world seems crazy and chaotic and out of control, our soul can be still. We don't need to live lives dominated by fear and worry. Violence and destruction abounds, yet we can be calm and at peace, because “The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress” (v. 11). It would do us well to spend less time thinking about out-of-control riots and spend more time thinking about how God is graciously in control. Remembering that God is powerful and present enables us to declare: “Therefore we will not fear” (v. 2).

If a group of people are together watching TV, the remote control becomes the prized possession. Most everybody wants to be the one who determines what is watched. We get frustrated if we're watching something and all of a sudden the channel changes. Other times we think what is on is boring and we want it changed to something else.

In a way, we're called to let God have the remote. Let God determine how the story of your life goes. It'll probably have some surprising plot twists. But when your faith is in Christ, who died and rose again, you know the ending will be wonderful. Be still, and trust in God's gracious, loving and wise control.

—Pastor Craig

Worship With Us

Our 11:00 a.m. in building Worship Services continue. To comply with the state regulations regarding COVID-19, everybody is asked to wear a facial covering and observe social distancing by sitting six feet apart from other families while in the pews. Free masks are available on the entryway table.

We are also continuing to live stream our 11:00 a.m. Sunday worship services on Facebook Live. Devotional videos are also posted on our congregation's YouTube channel. Links to both of those sites can be found on our website: bethanyfree.com.



AFLC Annual Conference

The AFLC Annual Conference has been moved from its planned date in June to August 10-12. It will be held at the Association Retreat Center in Osceola, Wis. It is a time for spiritual renewal and discussion of the work of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. Everyone is welcome to attend. Conference events can be followed on the AFLC website: aflc.org.

Pastor Craig will be attending the AFLC Annual Conference and gone on Sunday, August 9. Pastor John Slivkoff will be sharing the message that Sunday.



Men's Breakfast

Saturday August 1 at 8 a.m.



Brown Bag Ministry Reaching Our Community

Each week brown paper lunch bags are filled with food, devotionals, a reading from God's Word and a reminder of the love of Jesus. Some bags are then picked up by men from the Astoria Rescue Mission and distributed by them to people in need. Additional bags are sent to other local missions.

Did you know?

- * *Each week our Brown Bag Ministry packs around 200 bags!*
- * *About 2800 bags have been distributed so far this year!*
- * *Thanks to donations and clever bargain hunting, each bag costs us less than \$2!*

The Brown Bags Ministry meets on Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. Come be a part of this important outreach.

Coming This Month...

August 1 Men's Breakfast

August 4 Deacons & Trustees Meeting

August 10-12 AFLC Annual Meeting

