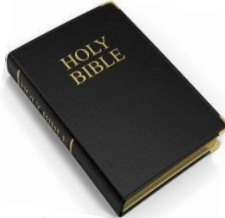


Linway Church In Touch

Staying In Touch Without Touch

April 22, 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



Dear Friends,

Greetings! I hope this letter finds you and yours safe and well. The Corona Virus Pandemic continues, although there are signs that the rate of increased cases and deaths have slowed. Some parts of our country are making preparation for the resumption of business activity with the desire to begin the process of returning to what we thought was normal life. The *shelter in place and physical and social separation or distancing* declaration is to continue for several more weeks at the very least. Our governor is working with several other governors in this part of our country to craft a plan for the resumption of economic activity and a more normal life for us all. I know that you are as anxious as I am to resume what we thought were our “normal” activities.

This coming Lord’s Day, April 26th, is the third Sunday in the Easter Season as we head toward the celebration of Pentecost, the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Good News **is** that **Christ is Risen!** Not just one day once a year, but for all time. The worship services following Easter that lead up to the celebration of Pentecost, invite us to confront and believe the reality of the Resurrection. Please remember that while I want you to come to worship at our Lord’s Linway Sanctuary, it is out of an abundance of caution that requires us to **not** gather for holy worship until the pandemic has subsided. That being said, I am asking once again that you take time, find time, and make time, for your own private, or family devotional worship. It is the best we can do under the circumstance.

In an effort to assist you let me first share with you the Scripture readings designated for this coming Sunday, April 26th, the Third Sunday of Easter:

- Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19
- Acts 2: 14, 36-42
- Epistle: 1 Peter 1: 17-25
- Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

As before, I encourage you to read one or all of the Scripture texts. The message based on Acts 2:14, 36-42 is Peter’s proclamation to the residents of Jerusalem and all who could hear his voice. Verse 37 is the heart of the passage: *When they heard this, they came under deep conviction and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles: “Brothers, what must we do?”* It is no different for us today. It has been the same for every individual who has heard the Good News of the Gospel in generations past, and it will be for generations yet to come.

The events of what we call *Holy Week* was a crisis for Jesus’ disciples and followers. It was also a crisis for the residents of Jerusalem. Can you imagine the chaos and turmoil? The Resurrection changed everything. It launched a movement

that changed the world. Peter was able to speak unreservedly to any and all who would listen about what God has done through Jesus Christ.

It is a call to repentance and to acknowledge that we have turned away from God's will for our life. It is also a joyous celebration of what our heavenly Father has done for us in the person of Jesus Christ. Our response is both individual and corporate. Peter's testimony could not be clearer. There can be no doubt that Jesus died in order to pay the penalty for our sin. Therefore, we are to live in response to what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. This is made evident through worship and service. This is also why, when this Corona Virus Pandemic is over, we need to make our individual and corporate response evident through worship and service.

Once again, I am asking you to intentionally read one or more of the above Scripture texts, to think of its meaning in and for your life. I also ask you to pray for the sick, the poor, and those in need. Expand your prayer to include those providing medical assistance to all whose health is impaired and not just those afflicted by this pandemic. Pray for our elected leaders at all levels of government that their decisions will aid our community, state, and country in providing assistance to those in need, not only medically but economically.

I will be writing to you again next week. I will also give a message for this coming Sunday, April 26th from the Linway Sanctuary that will be available on the Linway Church Facebook Page and on the Linway website at www.LinwayChurch.org.

Even though we cannot meet at Linway Church for worship and service, there are still expenses that must be covered. I encourage you to send your tithe and offering to the church. You may send your offering envelope by mail or you can use the new electronic system called *tithe.ly*. It is one more way we can stay connected as we seek to live out our faith in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. In the meantime, keep the faith and stay safe.

God Bless You,

Eric E. Dennis, Pastor



Our sympathy is extended to the family of Donna Petrow, a long-time member of Linway, who went home to be with our Lord on April 18. Donna had been living in Rensselaer, Indiana with her daughter. The family asks that memorial donations be given to the Lupus Foundation of America or to Linway Church.

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