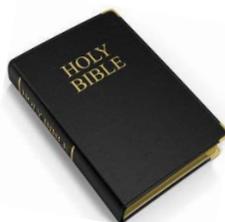


Linway Church In Touch

Staying In Touch Without Touch

May 6, 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



Dear Friends,

Greetings! The resumption of commerce and activities has begun in some areas of the country and will soon begin in some counties in Pennsylvania, but not here in the counties of southwestern Pennsylvania. Of course I am disappointed, but I have great hope that before long, we will be given permission to proceed with caution. We are told that it is the density of the population that currently prevents us from resuming such activities in an effort to stem the contagion of the Corona Virus Pandemic. The *shelter in place and physical and social separation or distancing* declaration is to continue for several more weeks. I know that you are as anxious to resume what we thought were our “normal” activities as I am.

This coming Lord’s Day, May 10th, is the Fifth Sunday in the Easter Season. It is also the day set aside where we remember and honor the woman who gave us birth or our loved one who gave birth to our children. In the past it has been a day when family members made a great effort to be in worship with their mother. I remember growing up and our extended family would gather at my grandparent’s house of worship to be with my grandmother. She was thrilled and it was fun to be with my aunts and uncles and cousins. Sadly that tradition isn’t as strong today, and this year it is impossible due to the Corona Virus Pandemic. Such a disappointment is lessened out of an abundance of caution that requires us to **not** gather for holy worship until the pandemic has subsided and the all clear is given. 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 circumstances.

In an effort to assist you, let me share the Scripture readings designated for this coming Sunday, May 10th, the Fifth Sunday of Easter:

- [Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16](#)
- [Acts 7: 55-60](#)
- Epistle: [1 Peter 2: 2-10](#)
- Gospel: [John 14:1-14](#)

As before, I encourage you to read one or all of the Scripture texts. The message of Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 is about prayer. I would like for you to consider that: *prayer changes us, draws us closer to God, gives us skills to face challenges, and aligns us with God’s will.* My guess is that the number of prayers that have been offered during this Pandemic is far greater than what may occur during what we consider *normal times*. We have been encouraged to keep others in our thoughts and prayers.

A few years ago, a group called American Atheists put up a billboard outside the stadium where the Super Bowl was to be played. It read: *A "Hail Mary" only works in football.* The group then issued a press release that said in part: *It's time to stop believing that prayer works.* The atheists had a point. Prayer does not cause a fumble or the interception of a pass. God's providential love is extended to players on both teams. The team who executes its plays the best and takes advantage of opportunities that occur, usually wins. We can and should root for our favorite team, but the atheists were wrong when they said that prayer doesn't work. Prayer changes us.

I will be writing to you again next week. I will also give a message from the Linway Sanctuary that will be available on the Linway Facebook page and on the Linway website for this coming Sunday, May 10th. For those able to access this technology, I hope you find it meaningful. I sincerely look forward to welcoming you for worship at our Lord's Linway Church when it is safe to do so.

With services and programs suspended there has been a slight decrease in our utility expenses. That is helpful, but there are still expenses that must be covered for our Lord's Linway Church. While your support has **always** been appreciated, it is necessary more than ever now. Let me encourage you to continue to send your tithe and offering to the church. As always, you may send your offering envelope by mail or you can use the new electronic system called *tithe.ly*. There is information about how to access this technology in the monthly newsletter. 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



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