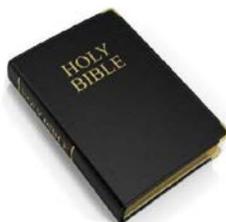


Linway Church In Touch

Staying In Touch Without Touch

June 3, 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



Dear Friends,

Greetings! We have arrived at the first week of June and are moving into the “Green” category of resuming business and activities. A Special Session meeting has been called to make plans for the resumption of services and activities that the “Green” category will permit. Decisions reached will be passed along to you as soon as possible. I can say that even when we resume corporate worship, there will be some requirements for all who gather. Some folks are calling this the “new” normal. The simple fact is that the Corona Virus has not gone away. It is still lurking and will be for the foreseeable future. When we can again gather at Linway Church, you will be invited to come to worship by taking precautions that are intended to diminish the threat of transmitting this disease. Washing (sanitizing) hands frequently, wearing masks, and keeping a physical distance will still be required. Remember, we do so with the intent not to endanger anyone or enflame the transmission of the Corona Virus. No one wants that.

There is another matter that has engulfed, and in some cases enflamed (literally), private and community properties in some of the cities of our country, including Pittsburgh. It is the aftermath of the brutal death of George Floyd. The Church of our Lord and Savior cannot condone such police brutality that took Mr. Floyd’s life. I, for one, do not believe that such force is part of regular law enforcement practice. I believe that peaceful protests of such practices are more than appropriate. They are necessary. I also believe that justice under the law must be served. The officer responsible must be held accountable. Those aware of what was going on as they stood by, show complicity by their inaction. Justice must prevail, and a review of police procedures must take place to prevent such brutality in the future.

This leads me to my next point. There are individuals and groups who obviously have taken advantage of this situation to promote an agenda of violence and anarchy. The Church cannot condone such activity under any circumstance. Arson never settles anything. The destruction of personal, private, or community property will not bring back the dead. It is a thoughtless response, whose intent can be nothing more than the destruction of our civil order. What possible good could come from setting St. James Episcopal Church on fire in Washington D.C.? People of faith are called to be better than this. I invite you to join me in prayer for the George Floyd family, for all who peacefully protest the brutal death of George Floyd, and also for our first responders in

law enforcement. They are on the front lines of thwarting dangerous elements who seek to subvert our common life together. I invite you to pray for life, liberty, and justice for all as you undertake your personal time of prayer and worshipful meditation.

Let me share with you the following Scripture readings for this coming Sunday, June 7, also known as Trinity Sunday:

- [Genesis 1:1-2:4a](#) (all of chapter 1 and the first four verses of chapter 2)
- [Psalm 8](#)
- [2 Corinthians 13:11-13](#)
- Gospel: [Matthew 28:16-20](#)

As before, I encourage you to read one or all of the Scripture texts. I would like to focus on the message based on Genesis 1:1-2:4a. Many people are interested in their cultural ancestry. In recent years DNA testing has made it possible for people to have a snapshot of their biological background. Some folks see this as a way to trace their family history, while others are looking to find out if they are connected to someone famous or even to royalty. They say they are looking for their roots. Years ago, folks might say that a person was the *spitting image* of a family member. Others might say, *the apple doesn't fall far from the tree*.

The creation story in Genesis is a bold statement. There is one Creator God who invested the image of God in all humanity, male and female. As such, we humans are embodied symbols and stewards of God's reign. In other words, it is not a matter of birth or family tree. It is the gift of God. We humans are not only "governors" of God's creation, we are also to reflect God's desire for an intimate relationship with God and with our fellow human beings.

Then sin entered human life. This is the story in which the image of God fades and is replaced by a constant battle with idolatry. Sin seeks to strip us of our heritage as children of God. Sin encourages us to turn our backs on what we know is God's will for us, and to seek our own or some other's desire for our life. I think this is exactly what is going on with those who are using the tragic and barbaric death of George Floyd. This is not the way God wants us to live. This is not the way God wants us to act. Those acting this way are not people of faith. God sent Jesus into the world to redeem us. To be forgiven; to be redeemed; is to know the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. That's what Trinity Sunday is all about.

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, June 7th. 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.

As I shared with you before, a survey was conducted that found that churches receive 78% of their income through the offering received during worship. Obviously, we have not been able to do that. It is true that with services and programs suspended

there has been a slight decrease in our utility expenses, nevertheless it is also true that there are still expenses that must be covered for our Lord's Linway Church. Your support has always been appreciated. To those who are able to be current with their estimate of giving, thank you so much. For those for whom this Corona Virus makes that impossible, we understand. We pray that in the future you are able to resume your gift. If you are able to give a bit extra, we hope you will pray about doing so. 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 June newsletter and on the Linway website.

Be sure to read in the June Newsletter about the new pick-up procedures for our Chicken BBQ this Saturday June 6th beginning at 2:00 p.m. You will not have to leave your car to purchase a dinner. It will be Take Out Only from our East Parking Lot! I have ordered 200 chicken halves and the necessary secret marinade sauce. It is for a GREAT cause, and all help is greatly appreciated.

In the meantime, keep the faith and stay safe.

God Bless You,

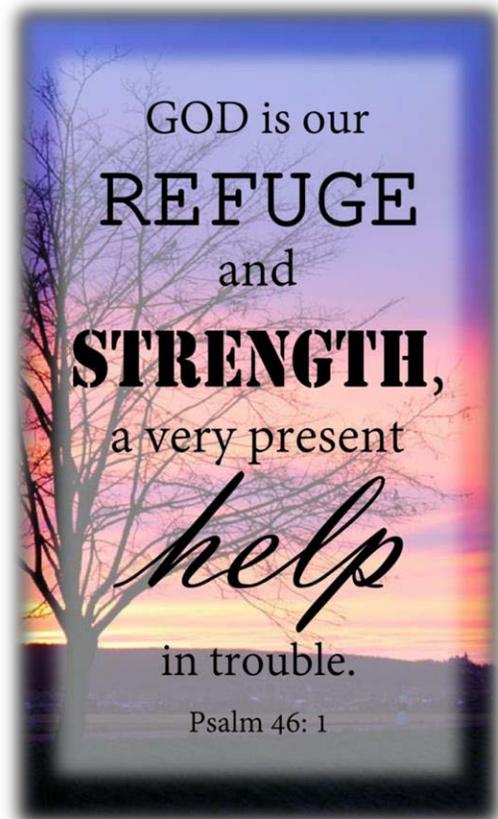
Eric E. Dennis, Pastor

Call For Help

By Frank Fawcett

Hang on to your hope.
Hold fast to your faith.
Be firm in His grace
In this time and this place.
This time of disruption
Makes our hopes look dim,
But we can see the victory
As we all look to Him.
We all look for answers
Or someone to blame.
Take a look in the mirror
And call on His name.

There is no comfort in doubt!
Keep the faith!



Linway United Presbyterian Church

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Church Website: www.LinwayChurch.org Facebook Page: [Linway Church](https://www.facebook.com/LinwayChurch)



BBQ

Linway Church
CHICKEN BARBECUE
Take-Out Meals Only

Pull into our East Parking Lot to order

Sat. June 6 2:00–6:00 pm

Held on the Front Lawn – Rain or Shine

COST: \$10.00

Each Meal Includes:

½ BBQ Chicken
Baked Potato
Coleslaw
Dinner Roll
Bottled Water
Sarris Candy Bar



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