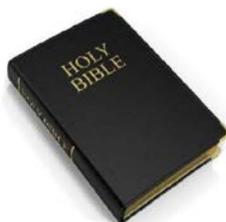


Linway Church In Touch

Staying In Touch Without Touch

June 10, 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



Dear Friends,

Greetings! Last Sunday (June 7th) was Trinity Sunday on this year's church calendar. Trinity Sunday is always the Sunday immediately following Pentecost. We left the season of Eastertide (the Lord's Days following Easter) to celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. With Trinity Sunday now behind us, we enter into a new season of the church year known as *Ordinary Time*. I must confess that this *time of our life* seems anything but *Ordinary!*

It is true that we have moved into the "green" category of resuming business and activities in our community, but that is not saying that it is back to normal or ordinary. The Corona Virus is still infecting people as the health departments continue to report new cases. It is also true that the *rate* of infections has decreased, or as the Medical Professionals like to say, *the infection curve has been flattened*. We hope that this will continue. With the many protests continuing against the death of George Floyd, we can only pray that this does not spark a resurgence of Covid-19 cases. Does this sound like anything *Ordinary* or *Normal* to you? And then there is the violent protests by some with the destruction of lives, and both personal and public property. Does this sound like something that is *Ordinary* or *Normal* to you? It does not to me.

The Church entering into *Ordinary Time* may well be a comfort in this time of turmoil. Who doesn't want to get back to what is considered ordinary or normal? Your Session has held a special meeting to consider what steps to take on the journey to get back to worship inside the Lord's Linway Church. The Session is also considering the steps needed to open our church to the needs of the community. It will require us to modify many things due to the mandates of the CDC (Center for Disease Control). Decisions reached as to how and when will be passed along to you as soon as possible. I can say that even when we resume worship, there will be some requirements for all who gather for the foreseeable future. Some folks are calling this the "new" normal. 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 to enflame the transmission of the Corona Virus. No one wants that. Keep looking for information from the Session as to when and how we plan to resume worship in our Lord's Linway Sanctuary.

In an effort to assist you with your own devotional time, let me first share with you the Scripture readings designated for this coming Sunday, June 14th:

- [Genesis 18:1-15 \(21:1-7\)](#)
- [Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19](#)
- [Romans 5:1-8](#)
- Gospel: [Matthew 9:35-10:8 \(9-23\)](#)

As before, I encourage you to read one or all of the Scripture texts. I would like to focus on the message found in Romans 5:1-8. In recent years, many people have wandered away from the church, especially young people. They often express the thought that the church has nothing to offer that they are interested in. I guess it depends on what you are looking for. The church was never intended to be entertainment. Rachel Held Evans was critical of the church, but she found the right reason to stay with the church: *because Christianity names and addresses sin*. And the church directs us to the Lord Jesus Christ, who cleanses and redeems us. This is exactly what the Apostle Paul meant when he wrote: *But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us* (Romans 5:8).

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 14th. 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.

I want to thank everyone who made our Chicken BBQ Fundraiser a success. We sold out of dinners in record time. I am grateful for the hard work done for the benefit of our Lord's Church. Events like this don't just happen. They take place because people give of their time and effort to make them happen. They are also a success because people invite others to come and see what Linway has to offer. Trust me when I say that it is more than a Chicken Barbeque dinner. It is the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

As I have shared previously, with our services and programs suspended, there has been a slight decrease in our utility expenses, nevertheless there are still expenses that must be covered for our Lord's Linway Church. Your support has always been appreciated. To those 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 will be 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. In the meantime, keep the faith and stay safe.

God Bless You,

Eric E. Dennis, Pastor

Linway United Presbyterian Church
600 Lincoln Highway North Versailles, PA 15137
Rev. Eric E. Dennis, Pastor 412-824-3555 pastor@linwaychurch.org
Church Office: 412-824-3555 contact@linwaychurch.org
Church Website: www.LinwayChurch.org Facebook Page: [Linway Church](#)