



American Lutheran Church of Sun City
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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2020

MID-WEEK MESSAGE FROM PASTOR LOWELL

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Blessings to you, your family, our church, community and country in this significant time in our nation's history. As you attend to many matters of personal concern, thank you for your ongoing commitment to support ALC through your prayers, support of other members through cards and calls, and financial gifts. Thank you for using online giving as you see fit. For those who use checks, please remember to use your unique offering number/envelope for general offerings and if making a special gift such as a Memorial or debt reduction gift, please highlight its purpose in the memo line of your check. Julie Ochs, our Financial Coordinator, is always open for any questions or directives you may have.

In God we trust! This short statement packs a powerful insight into faithful living. Sometimes this statement is a shout of acclamation uttered with complete confidence and in other times, a plaintive plea when all is amiss around us. I used to tell my confirmation students that the most important thing about confirmation is that each student learns the Gospel truth: they can trust God their whole life long. Now I remind this dear congregation that this is certainly true for you and me. It is not a statement of passivity, leaving everything up to God and letting us off the hook for authentic action in life. It is a statement of faith, knowing we can trust God through the love of Jesus Christ and empowered through the Holy Spirit. Nothing less will do for this time...

I purchased a license plate for my car last January and for the first time, paid a bit extra for specialized plates. My intent was to bring a brief respite for harried drivers to see the phrase "In God we trust!". Now the key is for me not to become a harried driver myself or I will be sending a completely different message for I also have ALC SC, meaning of course our dear church in Sun City! "In God we trust" is our common commitment to live by faith in God through Jesus Christ. Yes, sometimes we miss the mark (as I can do in my driving ☺) but we always return to this simple truth; **in God, we trust!**

Love, Pastor Lowell

FAITH'S RESULTS IN TROUBLED TIMES

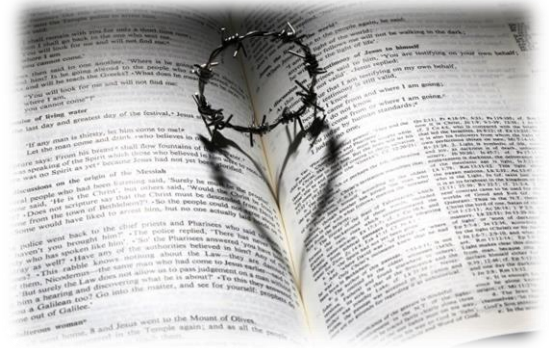
Since the COVID-19 and the "sheltering in place", I have had more time to reflect on my life, my actions, my accomplishments, my disappointments and my joys and griefs. Sometimes I have felt overwhelmed and sometimes I have felt satisfied in my time of reflection. Certainly this time has reminded me that:

- I am not in control, God is.
- When I turn to God, He takes care of my concerns and problems, and when I try to "fix" things without His help, I either become overwhelmed or fail.
- Listening is essential...not just "hearing" but giving your "all"...not trying to listen when you are formulating your own responses or consumed with your own reactions, but "true listening".
- My faith has grown. My personal and professional life experiences have humbled me and enlightened me and these experiences have resulted in my faith growing intentionally...and...I am still growing in faith.

- When I have fear, real fear or fear of the unknown, I find that when I talk with God, my fear is lessened.
- When I focus on my breathing, cut out the distractions, center myself and pray, I feel a closeness with God and an overwhelming sense of peace (thank you Pastor Judith for reminding me of the importance of meditation).
- When I feel sorry for myself, I am helped by being with others who may have hopeful words and actions that can encourage me, and, vice-versa, I can be an encourager to others by taking the time to listen and be supportive to them through my words and deeds;
- And the list can go on....

When I put my Hope in God, He helps me navigate through the trials and tribulations, the joys and experiences of life. Where do you put your Hope?

*Prayerfully submitted,
Terri Polk; ALC Council President*



WEDNESDAY MORNING LADIES BIBLE STUDY BEGINS JUNE 17!

I am excited to begin studying God's Word with you beginning June 17 at 10 a.m. using Zoom. We will be using Gather Magazine's Summer Bible Study called Of Many Generations: Mary, Elizabeth and Lydia. The theme verse is, "Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in." Isaiah 58:12

Please email me at deborahnelson@cox.net to let me know you are interested in participating and I will send you an attachment to your email with the bible study. I can also send you a paper copy by mail. As we get closer to June 17, I will email you detailed instructions about the link to Zoom to join the meeting. You can participate by video/audio or just audio. Please call me if you have any questions at (402) 651-3635.

Looking forward to hearing from you! Debbie Nelson