



July 24, 2020

Paul and the Church in Corinth, Take 2

The Corinthians forgot about Paul.

The city of Corinth was situated on an isthmus between Athens and Sparta. A hub of trade, ships would save time by transferring cargo across the land. There are even paths where they would drag ships across the land to set sail on the far side. Corinth also saw travelers from all over the world walk its streets. Temples and shrines to the Roman gods and gods from all over the world served the cosmopolitan population of the city. Paul saw that such a cosmopolitan place and an economic center was perfect for a church.

Yet, after departing from Corinth to continue his mission and ministry around the Roman world, problems arose in the church. When word reached Paul, he reminded them of the power of the Gospel in First Corinthians. Then after a painful visit and a tearful letter, the Corinthians were ready to reconcile and what we find in Second Corinthians is the reconciliation that God worked in the lives of Paul and the Corinthians.

These letters were not from Paul to a Corinthian, but to the entire community, so whenever you hear/read the word "you", the Greek reads "you all."

We will be spending six weeks with Paul and the Corinthians as they build their relationship again based on the fallibility of humanity. Unlike Job, the story is hidden in the subtext of both letters, so rather than a clear story, we have themes for the readings each week.

Week 1: Consolation (1:1-11)

Week 2: Forgiveness (2:1-10)

Week 3: Treasure in Clay Jars (4:1-15)

Week 4: We Walk by Faith, Not by Sight (4:16-5:10)

Week 5: Reconciliation (5:11-21)

Week 6: Generosity (8:1-15)

I encourage you to read between and around the texts for each week to get the full picture of the letter and relationship between Paul and our brothers and sisters in Corinth. And a potential pathway for you to work towards rebuilding the relationships in your lives.

Pr. Justin

An Update from the Plan to Gather Task Force

The Plan to Gather Task Force has been meeting on a weekly basis as the overall plan for phasing in worship and other church activities continues to grow. Discussions have included baptisms, weddings, funerals and other church centered functions. An objective measure of Covid activity has been forwarded to the council for consideration. Unfortunately, Covid activity continues to increase in the Marathon County area.

When the circumstances allow Saint Andrew to advance to the next phase, steps are being taken to ensure we are ready. Cleaning supplies and other equipment are scarce in the current environment with every business, church, restaurant and school all shopping for the same supplies and at the same time. Our orders are in and we anticipate receiving our supplies in sufficient time. New policies are being discussed so that we will be in compliance with CDC guidelines.

The Task Force has been assisting other ministries in planning for Sunday school and confirmation. Everyone is hopeful that these programs may start in a timely manner with appropriate safety plans in place. Discussions are taking place to achieve a deep cleaning of the building and the possibility of experimenting with an outdoor service is also being explored.

Come! Check Out the SALC Library!

The church library will be open on **Thursday, July 30 from 4:00 - 6:00 pm**. Things to know before you come: you will need to wear a face mask, use hand sanitizer upon entry and exit, sign in and out, and one person will be allowed in the library at a time. We will be using the same guidelines as the Marathon County Library system which includes quarantining returned materials for four days before returning items to the shelves. There will be a tote marked "returns" available for these items.

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Quilts and School Bags

Thank you to everyone who made quilts and school bags for Lutheran World Relief this last year! With the shipping date soon approaching in October, completed quilts and school bags will need to be **returned by September 1** so they can be prepared and boxed for shipment. Please place them in the plastic bin labeled "Items to Pick Up or Drop Off" which is located outside the north (Chapel) entrance. If your items are too large for the bin, please call the church office at 715-842-3333 and arrangements will be made to meet you at church to receive your quilts and/or school bags. Again, thank you to all who have shared their time, talent and gifts to make another shipment possible for those in need in other countries!



Weeding Assistance Needed

Though we are not gathering in person quite yet, the weeds have not taken a break this summer! Anyone is welcome to stop by the church at their convenience and weed any section that looks like it needs a little TLC. All help is greatly appreciated in caring for Christ's church!

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