

Monday, March 23

Faith in the time of the Coronavirus

Pastor Hank

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:35, 37-39

Nothing in all creation, not even the Coronavirus, “will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” These are difficult, frightening times, and although we may be physically separated from each other as a result of social distancing, we are not separated from the love of God and we are not separated from the love of those who, with us, are members of this community of faith.

Just today, as I sat down to write this devotion, I received a short one-minute video from two First Lutheran friends. The video was a “virtual” sharing of their “pizza night.” It ended with two glasses raised in a toast to Bobbi and me and the words: “We love you and we miss you.” The Coronavirus cannot separate us from the love of God in these Christian friends.

In John 13, Jesus told his gathered disciples, “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” In these difficult days ahead we will all have many opportunities to show our love for one another. Praying for each other is a powerful act of love. Communicating with each other through phone calls, video chats, through letters and cards are powerful acts of love. Being careful to follow social distancing guidelines in the grocery store or the pharmacy is a powerful act of love. To pray for all those who are ill or who are frightened or who are grieving the death of a loved one from Covid-19 is a powerful act of love. And yes, washing your hands is an act of love.

Until the doors of First Lutheran open again for worship and ministry, I will post a daily devotion on our website and our Facebook page. We will post weekly readings, sermons and music. We will not be separated from the love of God or the love we hold for each other.

Prayer: Hold us together Lord, hold us together in your infinite love. Amen.