

March 21, 2020

The peace of the Lord be with you.

I prepared this note on Friday so I could have a sabbath day on Saturday. And Mary, in her great computer wisdom, found a way to post it. (Thank you, Mary, a million times over for all you do.) I send you these three items:

1) We sent out the information about joining the synod's on-line worship service this Sunday but forgot to put the time. It will begin at 10 a.m.

2) I had asked folks to share what they are grateful for even in these times. Here are some responses we have received. I thank you for your replies. They certainly bolstered my spirit. I hope they bring hope and spark your own awareness of thing for which you are grateful.

My pansy garden, that my six-year-old grandson help be plant on Monday. It brings joy & hope to my day every time I look out my kitchen window at it. Elaine Michael

Blessing I've experienced in this crisis: Thankful for extra time to read God's word, reflect on it through devotions that are now appearing online from many faith communities, and to pray for victims of the virus, their families and health care workers who courageously risk their own lives to bring God's healing to others. Dave Kaplan

Am rereading Mere Christianity and an old Newsweek issue on Jesus. And Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. It's so quiet outside...stillness all about. Barb Miller

3) Several years ago we used a song entitled, "For Such a Time as This" by Wayne Watson as our theme for our congregational meeting. I rediscovered it yesterday after a colleague mentioned those words from the book of Esther (4:14). I offer the YouTube link to the song (lyrics appear on the screen) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YmYQQ8h4wsM> This may well be the Church's anthem as we face all the challenges the coronavirus is bringing to our communities, nation and world.

We who believe in the resurrection of Christ and the steadfast goodness and the love of God have the work of holding up hope, love and caring for our neighbor to help steady and anchor the boat in these troubled waters. Listen to the song. Sing along. Keep your faith and heart strong. Trust in the faithfulness of our Lord, so that you and we can offer a calming, loving, hopeful presence to one another and to our world.

God IS with you,

Pastor Linda M Alessandri