



MARCH 27, 2020

PLUG INTO THE HIGHEST POWER

## PASTOR DON'S DISPATCHES

### HOW DO WE DO THIS?



Don't we live in an interesting time? I realize very few of us have faced a challenge of such scale as this world pandemic. However, some of you might remember what it was like during WWII. Others might have memories of life when things were uncertain. For example, I remember bomb shelters, duck and cover drills, the Vietnam War, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Cold War, and talk of what WWII would be like. Then there was September 11, 2001; simply 9/11.

There is a reason I bring up these moments where we have faced uncertainty and challenges, even when we have faced good challenges (such as, getting an education, or completing some physical goal). The challenges in life give us something to fall back on; they help us realize we know how to get through tough times.

God, speaking through the prophet Isaiah wrote this,

*"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild beasts will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness and rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise." Isaiah 43: 19-21 (ESV)*

God is assuring people that they would be delivered out of exile and return to the land taken away from them. God reminds them of the past and how he cared for them as they came out of Egypt. With that history it is a reminder that God will continue to do great things for his faithful people.

On 9/11 we were caught off guard, and we didn't know what the next hour might bring. That was hard. But I remember that day, and the days to follow. What did we do? We turned to our faith and to God in a stronger way. We held our loved ones closer; and we grew closer to those around us, our friends, neighbors and even strangers. All those things got us through and still get us through the changes that keep happening from what began on 9/11.

First, let me say, I do not believe for a second this pandemic is something caused by God. But I do believe this worldwide crisis gives us a yearning for God and pushes us closer to God. But let me say, I hope it pushes us closer to each other.

There are practical things we can do at this time! Here are a few ideas...

- To draw closer to God – read the Bible daily, maybe start with the Psalms; pray multiple times a day starting with timing yourself for 3-5 minutes and extend the time to grow deeper in prayer; use the devotions from Portals of Prayer (or other sources); watch our weekly worship accessible through the ALC website ([www.americanlutheran.net](http://www.americanlutheran.net)); if you are like me and not online try your own worship format with elements of confession, prayer of adoration of God, Bible readings; prepare your offering to send to the church; pray for people you know—the nation, the world, and those in need; recite the Apostles Creed (or what you can remember) and open and close your worship in the name of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; add sacred music to your worship, if available; find sources of inspiration (enjoy nature, watch an inspiring faith-based movie or TV program, read a Christian author, have a faith chat with a family member).
- To draw closer to others: - email, write notes, make a phone call, text message someone; if someone comes to mind, take the time to connect with them and pray for them; when you call someone, take a few minutes to chat about how they are feeling and finish your conversation by praying for them or each other. Pray for those who keep our world working – government leaders, military folks, retail workers, restaurants, healthcare, truck drivers, law enforcement, fire and ambulance personnel; when you have in person encounters, smile at others and risk saying hello; personally thank those who just show up to work.

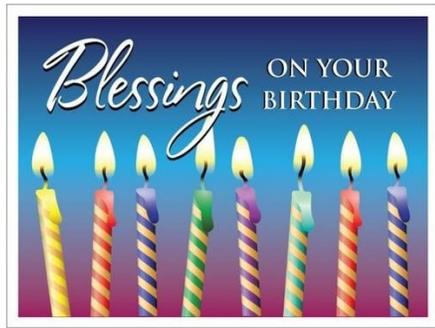
I could go on at length with what to do. Remember we are all feeling some stress in life, and for all of us, we are more isolated. I especially think older people feel more isolated. So, don't forget those who live alone. Let the love of Christ rule your hearts!

It is a joy to continue to serve you and serve among you.

*Pastor Don McMillan*

Thank you for your prayers, good wishes, notes, text messages and encouragement before, during, and after my surgery in February. A special thanks for those who visited me in Flagstaff hospital – Marie Donelson, Robin and Dirk Thayer, and Rich and Lois Longfield. Your support, all of you, has made this challenging journey so much easier. – Pastor Don McMillan

# Birthdays Next Week



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 29: Norm Stephens, Amy Bonney  
Henry Dawson-Camarillo, Matthew Dunkel  
Jill Spasaro, Chris Jensen
- 30: Ryan Kumpfmiller, Wilfried Motzek

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1: Jeremy Smith
- 2: Boden Hurley
- 3: Gunhild Albrechtsen, Becky Geiler, Mavis Lavin
- 4: Suzan Hader, Alicia Hasbrouck

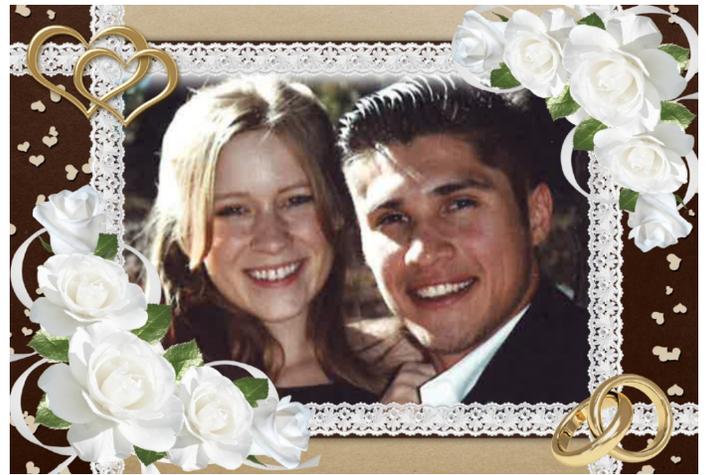
### Scripture reading for today - Psalm 121

*Father God, we give you praise and thanks for so great is your love toward us that you have delivered us from the depths of the grave through the sacrifice of your Son Jesus Christ. You have given us an opportunity to truly know and enjoy the fullness of Christ through a deep and profound personal relationship.*

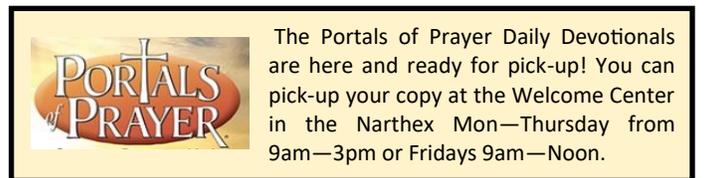
*Help us to live as resurrection people filled with joy; for you are our comfort and strength. Keep our hearts and minds ever focused on your kingdom and grow our faith as we stay the course with perseverance and hope.*

*In the name above all names, Jesus the Christ. Amen*

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** If you have a prayer need, please e-mail Rachel in the office at [rachel@americanlutheran.net](mailto:rachel@americanlutheran.net) and your request will be passed on to the prayer team.



Moses & Dinah Glidden are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Glory Glidden to Isaac Arellano. The small family wedding will take place on April 25, 2020 in Paonia, Colorado at the home of fellow Christians. Both Glory and Isaac are members of our church, please keep this young couple in your prayers!



## 3 WAYS TO GIVE



**Envelope:** Ask for a box of personal numbered envelopes from the church office or mail in your tithes.



**Mobile:** Download the Tithe.ly App to give a one-time gift or to schedule ongoing giving using your checking account, debit or credit card. Or text GIVE to (928) 756-0099 and follow the prompts.



**SimpleGiving:** Request an automatic withdrawal form for recurring once a month giving, available in the office, MON - TH 9AM- 3PM; F 9-12.



Sundays - Watch Anytime of Day

Watch ALC's Traditional and Contemporary Worship Services

On the link below:

<https://www.americanlutheran.net/sunday-service-stream>

If you would like a hard copy (dvd or cd) of the sermons - call the church office and reserve a copy to be made for you.