

May 8, 2020

Brothers and sisters,

"In these uncertain times." How many times have you heard that the last two months? Yes, these are uncertain times. We do not know what is going to happen next. Spike coming? New normal? Precautions? Back to work? Church services? We don't know the answers.

The truth is that we have always lived in uncertain times when it comes to life in this world. *"Now listen, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.' Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.'" (James 3:13-15).* We cannot be certain that the plans that we have for tomorrow will pan out. We cannot be certain that we will even be alive tomorrow. In this sense, we are always living in uncertain times, because we do not know what will happen tomorrow.

Yet in a very real way we as Christians never live in uncertain times. We entrust ourselves to the Lord's will. We know that what he wills is always best. We are certain that in all things God is working for our good. On Easter evening Jesus told his fearful disciples, *'Peace be with you!'* This is certainty. We have peace with God. Jesus, by his life, death, and resurrection, has restored our relationship with God. Nothing stands between us and our heavenly Father. His thoughts and plans for us are plans of peace.

On that same evening Jesus breathed on his disciples and gave them the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit creates, sustains, and strengthens faith through the gospel. As we continue in God's Word, we become all the more certain that the Lord will work all things for our good until he takes us to share in his glory forever in heaven.

Are these uncertain times? They sure are. We don't know how everything is going to play out. Are these certain times? They sure are. We do know that all things will work out for our good because we have peace with God through Jesus Christ. We entrust ourselves to the Lord's care, because the one who raised Christ from the dead has the power to care for us in the best way possible.

Remember in your prayers: 1) Lynn Wolcyk and her family at the death of her sister; 2) Don and Jean Kaldunski, at the death of Don's mother, Alice; 3) Allen Gruszka who is recovering at home after surgery to repair a badly broken ankle he suffered at work; 4) Lois Leikam who is still in the ICU at Froedtert hospital, but is improving; 5) All the mothers among us, thanking God for those who gave us life, and especially those who instilled in us the Spirit-worked "new life" we have in Christ.

WELS Communication Services has released the **May WELS Connection** for online viewing (hover your cursor over the words in bold type, press Ctrl and click). It's a wonderful report on how our synod serves those who are visually handicapped. You can also access family devotions (Mon, Wed, Fri) based on the previous Sunday's Bible readings. Each devotion is complete with a set of questions for different age groups, a prayer, and hymn verses that can be sung or spoken. **Learn more here.** And the latest edition of *Together* (news from the WELS) is attached to this message.

Don't forget to sign up for the blood drive here at church on Monday, May 18. Follow this link: <https://bit.ly/woodlawnheroes2020>

Finally, we will do another round of small group devotions with the Lord's Supper here at church on Thursday and Friday, May 21 and 22. Watch for more details, again using SignUpGenius.

God keep you all safe and healthy!

Pastor Kneser and Pastor Wessel