Resurrection LUTHERAN CHURCH

May 2020

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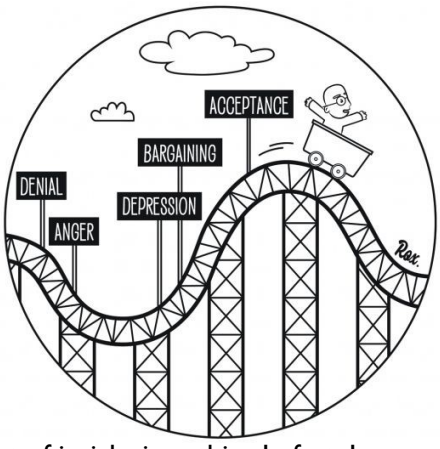
GRIEF ROLLERCOASTER



During a session of our Zoom Bible Study, one of my Pastor's Pondering videos was mentioned: the one I filmed as the order to shelter-in-place was first announced. I mentioned to not be surprised if your emotions wind up looking and feeling like a rollercoaster with ups, downs, loops, corkscrews, since all sorts of obstacles have besieged us over the last 2 months. The driving force behind this rollercoaster for many is grief.

You see, grief can be defined as the normal emotional response to loss. Many of us focus on grief when it comes to losing a loved one, but we can grieve all sorts of losses. Some of the things that we are grieving as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic include job loss, financial anxiety, loss of safety or of being able to control our environment, social gatherings and fellowship, and many more. An article entitled, "Understanding Grief in the Age of the COVID-19 Pandemic" by Kendra Cherry gives a lot of insight into this. In fact, I encourage everyone to read the entire article. (It was sent out as an attachment with the newsletter or you can visit the website at https://www.verywellmind.com/understanding-grief-in-the-age-of-the-covid-19-pandemic-4801931.)

In speaking to this grief Cherry writes, "The global coronavirus pandemic has created a new reality marked by grief and loss. Weddings, concerts, meetings, travels plans, school events, and more have been canceled in the wake of the virus. It has forced us to process both individual and collective grief in the face of an uncertain future which we are powerless to control…The disruptions in the normal routines and rhythms of everyday life contribute to the lingering unease and sadness that we are all feeling. Not only are we mourning the loss of thousands of lives, but we are also mourning the loss of normalcy, from seeing our co-workers to engaging in the mundane routines that we previously took for granted."

As we are navigating all of this there is a major difference between a standard rollercoaster and the one we find ourselves on. A real rollercoaster has a start and a finish point; it follows a track. Grief on the other hand is non-linear and it is supposed to be that way. You might have heard of the 5 stages of grief: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and finally acceptance. You might be feeling different aspects of these stages every day and that is ok. However, Cherry shares that, "The good news is that people tend to be resilient in the face of grief. Once the immediate crisis has passed, people are usually able to reach a place of acceptance where they are able to adapt and find ways to cope with their loss."

There are so many different ways to cope. I encourage you to practice self-care, give yourself time to reflect, remember your feelings are valid, and reach out to family and friends and check-in. While electronic means will never replace face-to-face contact it can bridge the gap. And as Christians, we dwell in the fact that we have a Savior who dwells with us. No matter where we are or how we are feeling, he comes to us and makes face-to-face contact with us. So, continue to meditate in the Word and devotions, be in prayer, connect with fellow believers during our streaming services or Zoom Bible studies, and do not lose hope!

Whether you are in lament or in good times use words to express how you are feeling day by day on the rollercoaster, an example of this being the Psalms with all their varied emotions. To start, I leave you with the words of Psalm 146:5-9 to encourage you and remind you on who our God is, even in the midst of everything swirling around in the world: "Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God. He is the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them—he remains faithful forever. He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets prisoners free, the Lord gives sight to the blind, the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down, the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked." (Psalm 146:5-9)

In the Hope of the Lord,
Pastor Matt

Resurrection Lutheran Church Balance Sheet 03/31/2020

Assets				
Assets				$211,693.89
Current Assets			$110,509.76	
Checking Account		$85,460.64		
Savings Account		$21,469.64		
Facilities Account		$3,345.54		
PayPal		$233.94		
Investments			$101,184.13	
LCEF Steward Account		$95,692.33		
LCEF Supplemental		$5,491.70		
Schwab Account		$0.10		
Total Assets				**$211,693.89**
Liabilities				
Total Liabilities				**$0.00**
Equity				
Operating Accounts				$207,552.91
Operating Accounts			$207,552.91	
General Fund		$53,241.44		
Sinking Funds		$107,149.62		
Local Impact Giving	$2,547.70			
Workers Comp	$1,790.11			
Piano Organ Maint	$1,777.67			
District Conv	$624.02			
Short-Term Maint	$7,680.79			
Landscape	$872.59			
Long-Term Maint	$36,246.85			
Surface Water Mgmt	$636.82			
Property Insurance	$871.92			
Parsonage Maint	$7,736.02			
Emergency Fund	$46,365.13			
Special Funds		$47,161.85		
Kitchen Fund	$29,977.40			
Memorial Fund	$13,446.54			
Concordia Publishing	$(15.96)			
Congregational Emergency Fund	$1,818.89			
Social Action Fund	$1,934.98			
Retained Earnings				**$4,140.98**
Total Equity				**$211,693.89**
Total Liabilities & Equity				**$211,693.89**

LCMS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY MAY 2020 ARTICLE

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. "For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.) "John 13:15) We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God – that job's already done!

But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow Jesus' example of generous giving. And this is not merely an example alone. It's also our Lord's command. "The one who contributes, (let him give) in generosity." (Rom. 12:8)

So, when we give to help others who are in need, and when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. So, we should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought, but according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world.

So, when it comes to our offerings to the Lord, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability – and even beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:3) – we can and should give a generous portion of the income that God provides us to honor the Lord.

So also, we should give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. Nor do we give grudgingly. We should give freely and cheerfully because we want to out of thanksgiving. "Each as he purposes in his heart," as the Lord says. (2 Cor. 9:7) There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us.

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of love – love for Him and for our neighbor. Genuine love is always love in deed (1 John 3:18), love such as Jesus showed us all. It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we give for a good purpose to thank the Lord and support His gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously for the service of God's gospel purposes, to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle. For that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly – so abundantly that they had to be told to stop giving. (Ex. 36:5-6)

In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord's work of bestowing His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation in our congregations through the preaching and teaching of His Word, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper. We should support the Lord's work of caring for those who are poor and needy.

Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, rededicate ourselves to following Him in generosity.

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VOTERS' MEETING

Because of the current situation, the Voter's Meeting will be postponed to a later date. We have good news though that all the council members have agreed to stay on in their positions for another term. At the future meeting we will vote on them as an entire slate of officers.

KITCHEN UPDATE

Most of the remodeling work is done on the kitchen! The three man team of Jerry, Scott, and Terry did an amazing job. So we say thank you to them! The appliances have been ordered as well, and some have arrived. When we are all able to gather back together we will have a dedication.