

Mid-Week Message

Wednesday April 15, 2020

CHRIST IS RISEN

The mid-week message I prepared is not one that would usually be given on a Wednesday after Easter. However it is one that is inspired by the Easter experience most of us have had. Over the past weekend I was speaking to many regular church going folks. What they missed and lamented the most about was not being able to go to church and not being able to congregate with their church family. I understood their situation. They were very well aware of the purpose of the protocols. The rational mind understands those protocols and yet the heart wants what use to be.

So I got to thinking. This is not a new problem that the church is facing. Similar things have occurred in the past. Only the names of the situation have changed. So as a church we should not have to reinvent the wheel when coming up with an answer to this situation. I remember the Communist persecutions of Christians in Eastern Europe and in Asia. How they were challenged by their regimes and how they kept their churches going. What these Christians did was to break down into church cells or as we would call them, church houses. Ironically this was what the early church did. Again we are not reinventing the wheel.

It may not be a bad idea to have a similar plan. So we as a local church could adapt and meet such challenges when they rise again. The plan I envisioned would be to create a local plan that would work for Green Bay and Thalberg. The church house idea would involve establishing a church house for five or ten parishioners to gather. People could meet either on Wednesday or Sunday or both days. This would depend upon what a particular group decides upon. Once gathered people could sing hymns, read scripture, an impromptu service, and Sunday school or confirmation classes. So that they can feel they have participated in and had a church experience. This would keep the church moving forward but on a smaller localized manner. We would still be doing mission to others and being good stewards with the resources entrusted to us. Hopefully this idea will get people thinking and talking about creating a plan.

People felt a sense of connection with the phone calls and emails. People appreciated the messages that were sent out and posted. Oddly enough, it was the simple things that worked the best. Other pastors I spoke with said the same things. We are blessed to have the council that we have and the dedicated people who work behind the scenes. These people understand

what it truly means to be a church. Please do not take that for granted. There are many churches that are not as fortunate as we are. Your time and leadership is greatly appreciated. The Holy Spirit is moving and working through such people. I think that this situation has forced the serious Christian to be more responsible for their faith. More people are taking their confirmation promises seriously and living up to the Royal Priesthood to which they belong. The Spirit still guides the church and works through people and God is still in control. God Bless, INDEED HE IS RISEN, Pastor D