



A Few Thoughts from a Shepherd

Few of us have lived through anything compared to what we are now experiencing. COVID-19 has affected our lives more than we ever imagined. In many ways our lives have “stopped” overnight. Work lives are different or not existent. Schools have migrated to online and canceled events. Many of our favorite stores and restaurants are closed. Television personalities are broadcasting from home, and who ever thought there would be a “shortage” of toilet paper and masks would be the latest fashion item.

Throughout the past few weeks, we keep hearing “We are all in this together.”, and “We will get through this.” While it is true that we are all in this together, often people seem to have different goals, and ideas about where we are going. As Christians, we know that our goal is to serve God, Christ is our anchor, and our goal is eternal life. There are many storms in our lives. Some are small and others are more encompassing like COVID-19.

In Matthew 14:22-32 Jesus’ disciples were in their boat during a strong storm, and they saw Him walking on the water. The disciples did not believe it was Jesus, but then they heard a familiar voice: “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.” Peter said, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” Jesus told Peter to “Come.” Peter got out of the boat and began walking on the water toward Jesus. But then he looked away and panicked. He cried, “Lord, save me!” Jesus grabbed hold of Peter and said, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” They then got back into the boat and the storm was gone.

Today Jesus still asks us the same question: “Why do you doubt?” Our current storm is COVID-19 pandemic. We are worried and afraid, but we are not forsaken. We should not lose our focus. God constantly reminds us that we can trust Him in life’s storms, and Jesus is watching over us. We need not feel alone in this storm, for we can look to Him for our strength and hope. Instead of dwelling on the storm, we need to see the opportunities around us. The world may not be the same after COVID-19, but God is always the same and there for us. John Flint

Mission Sunday

On Sunday, May 17th we have a unique opportunity for all of our giving to go to support our International Missions efforts for the fiscal year 2020-2021. You should have received an email earlier this week detailing all of these efforts.

As we plan and look forward to this opportunity, please join us in praying for this effort and tuning into the message each Sunday for a Missions minute during services.

Help for Medina Children’s Home

Kody, the Youth Minister from Mac sent this to Brandyn and asked us to share. “I am collecting supplies and taking them to Medina Children’s Home at the end of May. They reached out for some help and gave us a list of needed items.” If you would like to participate, Kody will make a stop here on May 25th to pick up. Here is the list:

- *Toilet paper *Bars of soap *Diapers * Baby wipes
 *Hand Sanitizer *Paper towels *Canned food

Please feel free to call the church office for any concerns or prayer requests. We are here to serve and stay connected.

Prayer Requests

- **Dana Lopez—Praise! Dana is home and feeling better. Please continue to pray for healing.**
- **Mark Snider—Pray for complete recovery after a hospital stay and foot surgery.**
- **Linda Sellards—Possible pneumonia.**
- **Tito Fernandez—Stepfather passed away.**
- **All those have been furloughed or lost jobs.**
- **Pray for Al Young as he was in a bike accident with a car Thursday afternoon. He will have surgery Friday morning at University Hospital.**
- **Sandy Goodman—Sandra Jones, a friend of a friend, is in Charleston hospitalized with cancer. Her husband Richard, is a retired minister.**

To Connect to Worship on Sunday?

Go to nwchurch.us and use the YouTube or Facebook links provided on our home page to follow our online Worship Service. Need more help, call Terri 210-859-5483 or Twila 210-452-6925.