



Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

May 2020

# DISCIPLEGRAM

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**By Rev. Dean Davenport, Senior Pastor**

<sup>8</sup> Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me.  
<sup>9</sup> But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. <sup>10</sup>For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:8-10

Teachable moments. Do you remember those words as you were growing up? Do you remember your mom and dad or teachers telling you that even in difficult times, in trying circumstances - maybe even more so in times like that - you could learn something. They were teachable moments.

I remember several (actually, I'm sure it's in the hundreds) but one in particular was painfully clear. Being associated with a person who had a proclivity for bad behavior had its consequences. I learned a major life lesson even though at the time it was hard to go through.

In 2 Corinthians 12 Paul writes of a difficult situation that he dealt with - a teachable moment for him and by extension for us. A faith life lesson to be sure. It didn't make sense to him why he was having to deal with this "painful" thing. The way he thought (the way you and I think, too) it would be far better for him to be rid of it so that he could go on with his life free of encumbrances. But God had other things in mind. In fact, according to God's economy, it was better for Paul to face that painful reminder, day in and day out, than it was for him to be free from it. He learned to be humble as God allowed. He learned to rejoice in his weaknesses - because then God would use him in powerful ways. Otherwise, it was going to be all about Paul and not about God using Paul for His glory. Paul learned to rejoice and even boast in weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities.

I rejoice when things are good and problem free. I do cartwheels when things go as planned without any interruption. Maybe you do, too. If you do, you'll realize that it's hard for us to "see what there is to rejoice about". In the face of weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities we are more apt to complain than we are to rejoice.

In this 2020 pandemic what are we learning individually as we face hardship and trials? What about as a congregation? I do believe that this is a teachable moment for us on a scale that we may not have seen in our lifetimes. We can complain and bemoan our current state of affairs (if confessions are in order I have spent some time there) or we can be humbled while we let God have His way with our lives and collectively with our Congregation.

Now is not the time to pray "God, deliver us from all of this stuff so we can get on with ministry". Now is the time to pray "Heavenly Father, use all of this to shape us for ministry now, and in the post pandemic era to come. Open our eyes, ears, and hearts in service to You. Amen".

Teachable moments - absolutely!



Your pastors are excited about an opportunity for those desiring the Lord’s Supper to receive it in a safe manner. **Family of Faith Communion Services** will be offered at church over 3 hours, Tuesdays and Thursdays, starting on the 19th of May. One day from 11am-2pm and the other day in the week from 4pm-7pm.

By the time of the 18<sup>th</sup> we will have been on a “sacramental fast” for over two months. Hopefully, all of us have grown in our relationship with Jesus as we have been exposed to His life-giving Word.

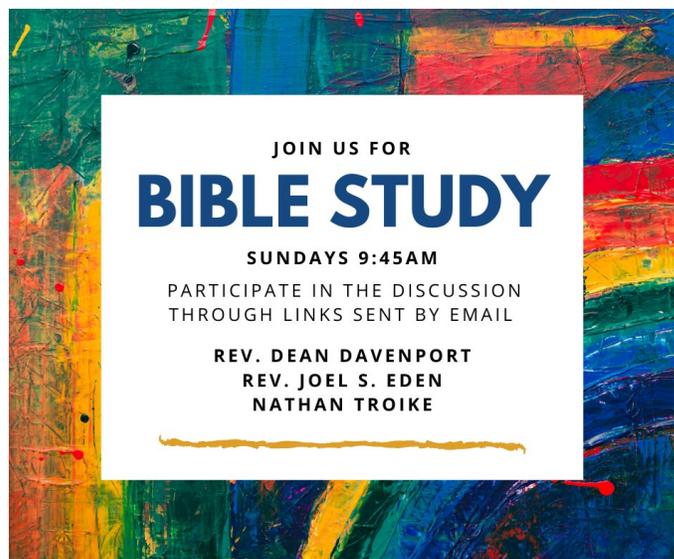
I know that there will be some who will continue the fast and there will be some who will be ready to receive the body and blood of Christ. This is intended to be a blessing, not a burden. No one is going to be compelled to participate, in fact we would encourage those who are not healthy to stay home.

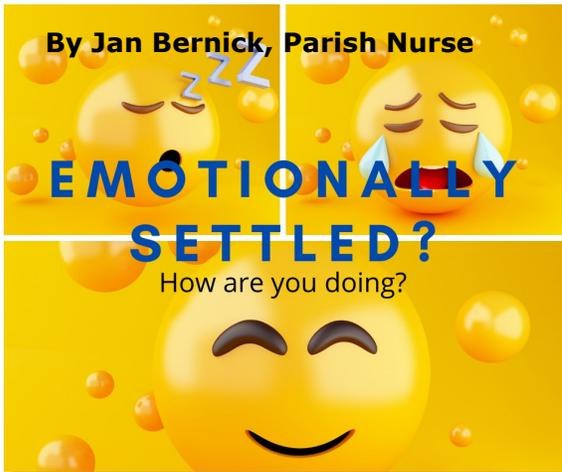
The elements of the Lord’s Supper will be in a pre-packaged unit that will be unique to each individual, and set out for each individual to take themselves. People will leave immediately after the 15-20 minute service and another group will be welcomed in. Six family groups will be allowed to schedule per ½ hour time slot. Families will have the opportunity to sign up for up to two time slots in the three weeks.

Sign up will be available on our website homepage, on the Covid-19 page, via our e-update, or by contacting the church office (734-522-6830) or a staff member.



Family of Faith Communion Services Times	
⇒ Tuesday, May 19	11:00am-2:00pm
⇒ Thursday, May 21	4:00pm-7:00pm
⇒ Tuesday, May 26	4:00pm-7:00pm
⇒ Thursday, May 28	11:00am-2:00pm
⇒ Tuesday, June 2	11:00am-2:00pm
⇒ Thursday, June 4	4:00pm-7:00pm





Maybe like you, I've been doing a lot of cooking and baking these past few weeks. And for a person who is accustomed to dining out 4-5 times a week, this has been quite a change! I've really been enjoying it though, experimenting with new recipes, bringing out old ones from when my now adult children were little, and falling back on tried and true simple culinary delights!

Yesterday I made black bean soup. As I increased the heat and watched the soup come to a full boil, then turned it down to a simmer and eventually to serving temperature, I thought of a parallel.

Being under quarantine with heavy social restrictions might be physically health-preserving during this time of a serious, highly contagious disease spread, but it is not emotionally

healthy. We humans long for human contact. When God created man, He said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." This is the first time God says something is "not good." Being alone for long periods of time can bring about feelings of sadness, depression, loneliness, hopelessness and fear. When not dealt with appropriately, these feelings can become emotionally destructive.

Now, some of you might be thinking, "I don't know where she's coming from but I've been working from home, kids and dogs underfoot, trying to teach my kids lessons I don't even know how to do, trying to keep everyone occupied and out of trouble and myself sane with everyone under the same roof 24/7! I'd love some alone time!" You might, but not for long.

Add to the stress factors the fear factor of this novel coronavirus. Sometimes it can be overwhelming. Left unchecked, these factors can result in negative thoughts, resentment, bickering, irritability, harsh words and broken relationships. Minor annoyances can become major issues under these circumstances.

What does this have to do with soup? Like the bubbles in the soup, if it heats up too much that soup will no longer be contained in the pot but will start to boil over and splatter out of control, and someone could get hurt. So it is with our emotions. Like the splatters of the soup, hurtful words spoken cannot be put back in the pot and we are left with a mess.

**Scripture** [Isaiah 26:3](#) *"You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you."*

Luther said the origin of peace is our hope and faith. Let's keep our minds focused on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith. Confess your trust in the God who loves you.

When we make a mess...

**1 John 1:9** *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

**James 5:16** *"Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed."*

**Romans 5:1** *"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

The mess that came to all mankind at Adam's fall has been cleaned up by the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have the victory!

**John 16:33** *"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart, I have overcome the world."*

**Prayer** Lord, I pray that as we endure these times of trouble, the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus. Peace with You, ourselves and each other. I pray that your lovingkindness would bubble up and overflow from our hearts onto those we encounter every day. In Jesus name, Amen. Settled.

### 5 Things to Do Every Week...

- GET OUTSIDE
- READ A BOOK
- SPEND TIME WITH JESUS
- CALL / ZOOM A FRIEND
- WRITE DOWN 3 THINGS YOU ARE GRATEFUL FOR

- If able, take a walk outside every day. Breathe in the fresh air and notice the new life springing from the earth. If you can't take a walk, find a place to sit quietly or meditatively in the fresh air.
- If you need alone time, ask for it.
- If you're lonely, reach out to someone.
- If you're feeling overwhelmed, by all means talk with someone who can help.
- If you pass another human on your walk, smile and say hello. It's a way to connect to another human and let them know they are not alone.
- Set a coffee time with a friend over the phone or Skype.
- Plan a meal to make "together" then sit down either over the phone or virtual meeting and eat together.
- Set up a Skype or Zoom meeting and do normal things. Have it going while you are folding laundry or preparing a meal, and just chat.
- If you enjoy museums there are a number of museums offering virtual tours. Google virtual tour of museums.
- Write actual pen and paper letters to friends and family members, even in your own household. They will be keepsakes.
- Keep a journal of your thoughts and feelings, then make those entries your prayers. The Lord does care about every detail, remember He knows the number of hairs on your head

### 5 Things to do with...

- GET OUTSIDE
- READ A BOOK
- SPEND TIME WITH JESUS
- PLAY A GAME
- CREATE SOMETHING

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church  
 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI 48154

«NAME»  
 «STREET»  
 «CITY», «ST» «ZIP»

*"Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ in these communities and with people everywhere."*

Jesus is our **HOPE!**