

January 9, 2021

Friends in Christ---

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”
(Hebrews 13:16)

Since September 13, 2020, we've been gathering for “in-person worship.” This works well enough for us; yet, as is obvious, things are not as they once were. This is not going to be our permanent situation; it's just where we are at this time. As is widely known, we've potentially viable Covid-19 vaccines. This means that on a future date, worship patterns and methods will likely migrate back to pre-pandemic modes. It also means that things will not go back to the-way-things-were/the-way-we-were-used-to immediately. How come? Because not everyone will have received the vaccine at the same time, etc. In the interim, we continue to be vigilant and we stay the course.

We remain responsible (and do not neglect) to sanitize and clean areas before and after use. We exercise self-discipline and do not come to the building unless we absolutely must or unless we've arranged otherwise with the Church Council. We continue to share social distancing, doing extra prep before events and taking extra care to clean and sanitize after events. We continue to make these God-pleasing sacrifices, not neglecting to do good, while sharing safe practices and wise precautions.

We are weary of doing these things, (truly we are) yet, as the author of Hebrews exhorts 1st century Christians, so I exhort us, saying, “Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” Our sacrifice is to maintain safe practices and to continue wise precautions. We do these things not for ourselves alone, but for others. As Martin Luther reminds us, “God does not need your good works, your neighbor does.”

Each Sunday, 10am in-person call-ahead services continue to be live streamed, 11am-11:30am drive-thru communion remains available, and youtube abbreviated worship offerings will be provided.

As I shared in the last letter, I remind us again that we've plenty of opportunities for doing good. One opportunity is to make the sacrifice to assist with sanitizing before and after worship & other events, set-up/tear-down, check-in, doing call ahead seating for Sundays, etc. The team that does this faithful work has been doing it now for 5 solid months without a break. Might this be your opportunity to make a God-pleasing sacrifice, to share abilities that you have? To share your good and necessary works with your neighbor? Reach out to Erik/Marjorie Maenpaa to assist. (321.327.8400)

Stay well. Continue to make wise choices. Thanks for being so very faithful.

God bless and keep you,
JDB+
Pr. J. David Bryant+