

THE HUB

A HOLY CONNECTION

PASTOR DAVID

This past Sunday we heard the story of “Doubting Thomas.” Sometimes it is easy to think that doubt is the opposite of faith. One only has to read a few passages of Scripture to see that certainly is not true! In the Resurrection accounts of the Gospels, every disciple doubted that Jesus had risen from the dead until they actually met Jesus. This is famously true of Thomas, but it is also true of Peter, John, Mary Magdalene, and all the rest. Doubt can, in fact, lead to intense engagement with faith. It can also lead to an encounter with Jesus. And when that happens, our lives are forever changed. No one can meet Jesus and come away the same person.

The disciples began the Easter story in doubt, but their lives were changed forever by an encounter with the Living God made known to us in Christ Jesus ... a God who continues to meet God’s people every day and every moment. We have to remember that when we question or doubt, that’s perfectly fine. God would not be much of a God if he couldn’t stand up to some scrutiny. We cannot, however, be afraid of the answers to those questions, because those questions are responded with invitations to an encounter with Christ, and who knows where he might show up? On the street, on a park bench, where you work, in a bar, or at the communion rail.

There is a saying we have which says, “Be careful what you wish for, you just might get it.” If what we wish for is an encounter with Jesus, that’s all the more reason to be careful. We never know where he’ll show up, or what he might look like, but we do know this much... we won’t ever be the same again.

The Shepherds Team, part of our evangelism efforts, seeks to supplement pastoral care through calls, visits and by serving as eucharistic ministers for the sharing of home or hospital communion. As we transition further into a reopened status, our team is being reactivated. Whether you attended previous training or not, you are invited to participate as you feel comfortable with and able. Our next meeting will be on Monday, April 19, at 6:30 pm. Please contact Pastor Lou if you are interested or see the notice in our private Facebook group for the Zoom link.



"The Incredulity of Thomas" courtesy of Rijksmuseum Europeana/

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY OFFERINGS

Tuesday book study and conversation on Mudhouse Sabbath: An Invitation to a Life of Spiritual Discipline by Lauren F. Winner on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Join Pastor Anne via Zoom each week.

Wednesday multi-congregational Bible study at noon: You are invited to join Pastor Anne and several other ELCA congregations throughout the country on Wednesdays at noon for a one hour Bible study via Zoom. The study is facilitated by pastors, and members from each of the congregations are encouraged to attend and participate in the discussion. Right now, the group is discussing the book of Romans.

Scripture Study on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM: Join Pastor Lou for a lectionary Bible study focused on the following Sunday's Gospel. No preparation is required. Join when you can. **Class will not meet this week.**

Let's Talk on Sunday's at noon: Join a faithful group of adult CLC members for conversation and mutual support each week. Key leader: Robert Kravetz. Let's Talk will not meet on Easter Sunday.

At-Home Sunday School for preschool-6th Graders: Richele Davis, CLC's Director of Christian Education, and our Christian Education Team are creating monthly packets for home use. Families will be provided simple lessons and activities to help our youth engage new Bible stories and apply them to their life. Online content will also be offered. The March/April Sunday School packets are located in a tub at the main doorway (lower level doors by the mailbox). If you are unable to pick up your packet or have any questions, please contact Mrs. Davis. During March and April, we will be remembering Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection, as well as Pentecost. The scripture video remains available on YouTube and Facebook.

7th/8th Grade Confirmation Class: Current 7th/8th graders are completing the Old Testament workbooks for confirmation at home. Parents and students, please contact Richele Davis or the Pastors if you have questions.

9th Grade Confirmation Class will meet on 4/25 at 4:30 p.m. on Zoom for conversation on Christian vocation. For those who have missed classes and have makeup assignments still due, please get them in as soon as possible to the pastor who taught the class in question. Confirmation will be on Pentecost Sunday's 10 am worship. Assigned work must be completed by that time. (Pastors will forward the makeup work once they have had time to prepare it. Check your email for the assignments. If any questions or concerns, please contact the appropriate pastor.)

High School Sunday School: Information needed to facilitate ongoing faith discussions has been shared with families by Richele Davis and the Christian Education Team.

Please note Pastor Lou is away from the church office and his personal office this week. He will reply to messages and emails upon his return. If you need a more immediate reply, please reach out to Pastor Anne.

The Commonwealth of Virginia is launching a Statewide Vaccine Pre-Registration System to provide a unified and comprehensive process for people in Virginia to pre-register for the COVID-19 vaccine. Virginia's new, consolidated COVID-19 vaccine platform is now available: <https://vax.preregister.virginia.gov/>. You may also confirm you are listed as pre-registered for the vaccine by clicking this link: <https://vax.preregister.virginia.gov/#/search>. Assistance in English, Spanish, and other languages is available through the VDH Call Center at 877-ASK-VDH3 (877-275-8343). New representatives are being trained to exponentially expand call center capacity next week. This will help ensure that callers can get timely assistance with questions and pre-registration.

COVID-19 UPDATES & RESOURCES

Helpful Counseling Resources

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Disaster Distress Helpline at 1-800-985-5990 is free.

Our partners in ministry, enCircle, formally Lutheran Family Services, has immediate openings for new patients using their telehealth services. They have expertise helping people of all ages to include family issues. They accept several major insurances, Medicaid, and self-pay. They also offer sliding-scale fee arrangements. Schedule by calling 888-841-4835 or click here for more information:

encircleall.org/counseling

Feeling overwhelmed by COVID-19? The Virginia Department of Health has offered VA C.O.P.E.S. Trained crisis counselors are available seven days a week (Monday through Friday, 9 AM - 9 PM, Saturday & Sunday 5 PM - 9 PM. Call or text 877-349-6428.

Emergency services remain available through the Rappahannock Area Community Services Board at 540-373-6876.

Helpline at Mental Health America of Fredericksburg at 540-371-2704 This is a local community resource line that can match the caller with our local mental health resources including counseling, local tele-psychiatry, and support groups.

National Suicide Prevention Line is 1-800-273-8255 or simply dial 988.

Additional helpful links...

Virginia Department of Health:

<https://www.facebook.com/VDHgov/>

Virginia Department of Emergency Management:

<https://www.facebook.com/VAemergency/>

Fredericksburg Government:

<https://www.facebook.com/FXBGgov/>

Fredericksburg Civic Alerts:

<https://www.fredericksburgva.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=938>

If you live in other jurisdictions, please like/follow your local government resources on Facebook or the web. Christ Lutheran will attempt to share practical and spiritual resources from the Lutheran World Federation, ELCA, Virginia Synod, local health systems and other resources on our [public Facebook Page](#) and [private Facebook group](#).

Message from the Staff & Pastoral Support and the Safety & Security Committee

Help Us Keep Our Staff and Our Building Safe: Though Pastor Anne, Pastor Lou, Robbin and Darlene are keeping their regular schedules, the office is closed to everyone else. Please help us keep them safe by not visiting the office unless you have a scheduled appointment. Masks are to be worn and distancing to be maintained when you enter the building for any reason and continued until you are again outside. Thank you for your diligence.