

Coaldale Mennonite Church

2316 – 17 St., Coaldale, Alberta

*“Rooted in Jesus, Growing in Grace, Connected in
Community, Branching into the World”*

Keeping in Touch – Friday, March 20, 2020



- ✓ Today is the First Day of Spring. Happy Spring!!
- ✓ The **Good Friday Service** scheduled for April 3rd at the MB Church has been cancelled.
- ✓ **Clothing Fest** has been cancelled for this spring. Save your items for fall.



PRAYER FOCUS



Pray for:

- † **Liz Ens and Jack Neufeld and families** as their brother, Peter Neufeld, passed away today.
- † **Tina Bloudoff and family** as her sister, Anna Penner, passed away last week.
- † **Connie Wall's dad, Jake Dyck**, who is in hospital.
- † **Henry Redekop** who is in the Lethbridge Hospital.
- † **Bill Giesbrecht** who is in the Lethbridge Hospital.

Message from Pastor Gary

Hi Everyone,

It seems like this Covid-19 has taken the soul out of our lives. By this I mean we are created to live in community and now we are required to make sure we implement social distancing in all relationships and isolation if we are not feeling well. When the H1N1 virus went through Lethbridge a number of years ago, the admin assistant where I was program director, was not feeling well. I told her to go home and also see her Doctor. The sad part of this journey is that she passed away 2 weeks later. So to listen and live by the cautions being implemented in a strange way helps us sustain life. And even more difficult is trying to manage the fear that surrounds us like a fog. So these times are also a call to action. Our action must take into account both our emotions and decisions we make.

There are some spiritual disciplines that can assist us in expressing our emotions and strengthen our faith at the same time.

Over a third of the Psalms are laments and these prayers are gifts to us for a time like this.

Psalm 13 (New International Version)

For the director of music. A psalm of David.

¹ How long, LORD? Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

² How long must I wrestle with my thoughts

and day after day have sorrow in my heart?

How long will my enemy triumph over me?

³ Look on me and answer, LORD my God.

Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death,

⁴ and my enemy will say, "I have overcome him,"

and my foes will rejoice when I fall.

⁵ But I trust in your unfailing love;

my heart rejoices in your salvation.

⁶ I will sing the LORD's praise,

for he has been good to me.

Notice that David does not sugar coat his struggle with God. He knows that God is BIG enough to handle his emotions of fear, anger, hopelessness and frustration. During the lament in a strange way God meets David and David turns his attention to his love for God. These are times when it is OK to be honest with God about our negative emotions. We know that the Lord meets us in our struggles and from our struggles turn our attention once again to the Lord indicating our love for him and affirming his goodness to us.

It looks like the Covid-19 is not going to subside in the near future, and we may get weary in the process. I find it helpful to meditate on the verses found in Matt 11:28-30. Jesus gives an invitation to his disciples to:

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” (NIV)

If there is a time that we need to find our rest in Christ, now is the time. In finding our rest in God we begin to understand that Christ is “gentle and humble in heart.”

So what can the leadership of this church do to reach out to you?

1. This coming week we would like to look at ways of streaming the morning worship service so that you could open a link and participate in worship that way. Singing would be difficult as we would need a special license to put the music on the internet.
2. We will upload the announcements and other messages and post them in the bulletin part of our website.
3. As you can see we are emailing everyone. If you have a special request, please email Jodi at the church and she can send the request out to the church family.
4. Ongoing communication is very important at this time. If you know of persons in our church who would like this information and do not have email, please encourage them to contact the office or share this information with them.
5. Currently we are following the government guide lines regarding church closure and will let you know when things change, and we can open the doors once again.
6. The office continues to be open 9am - 12 noon weekdays.
7. While we cannot take offerings on Sunday morning, donations can be made at the church office by cheque, cash or debit.
8. Let's continue to pray for each other.

Blessings to you,

Pastor Gary