



The St. John's Communicator

March 27, 2020

Roser's Reflection . . .

Dear Friends,

One of my favorite sections of the Bible is the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew, chapters 5-7), and my favorite passage within Jesus' famous sermon is Matthew 5:13-16. Here Jesus announces 13 "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its flavor, how will it become salty again? Then it is no good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled on by people. 14 You are the light of the world. A city located on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 People do not light a lamp and put it under a basket. No, they put it on a stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 In the same way let your light shine in people's presence, so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

Notice that Jesus does not say "you are called to be salt and light" or "you need to become salt and light." Instead, he says "you ARE salt and light." Who we are is always defined by who Jesus is for us. By his death and resurrection, we have been set free from our bondage to sin, death, and the devil. The Holy Spirit uses us within the framework of this freedom to benefit our neighbor. This is what it means to be "salt" and "light."

Whenever we encounter a metaphor in the Bible - particularly when it is talking about us - we need to unpack what is being described. Just as salt is used to preserve and flavor food, Christians are given to preserve our neighbor's good and to enhance their life. In the same way, Jesus uses the Christian to not only shine the light of his Good News (Gospel) into the lives of our neighbors but also to show them that they are not trapped in the darkness of this world. The Holy Spirit's work in and upon us shows them something else than what the world has to offer.

The Christian who "shelters in place" without a lot of complaining and defiance makes our public and medical officials' duties a bit more bearable. Accepting the limits which stores have needed to place on certain items with good cheer and a willingness to cooperate is a blessing for harried store personnel who are barely hanging on to their composure. Calling our neighbor - particularly the elderly - to find out if they are alright and if they need anything is a gift that we might be inclined to undervalue. Being patient with those with whom we are "sheltered in place" is not easy but benefits all in the home. Praying for others and letting them know that we are praying for them can bring much comfort to troubled hearts. Unexpectedly sharing material blessings with those whose workplaces have closed can make an overwhelming time feel just a little bit more bearable. All of these examples (and many more) are a witness to the God Whom we serve. Why? Because it demonstrates a changed life and our changed hearts.

In our time, Christians lament that the younger generations are not impressed by the things of God. Much of this is owing to the fact that God's people are often underwhelming at best and hateful at worst. Why should anyone be impressed with a God Who hasn't even been able to change me? Christ Jesus paid the penalty for our impatience, selfishness, indifference, and unloving behaviors and attitudes. They have all been washed away in the blood of the Lamb. You are free of them and need not think about them again. May the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of the baptized fill us with such gratitude and peace that it spills over into the lives of our neighbors.

In Christ Jesus,



Pastor

Important Request

We don't have current email addresses for some of you. As right now we are communicating primarily by electronic means, it would be very helpful to update your information. If you have not been receiving emails from the St. John's office, I would ask you send your email address to me: officestjohnsbeloit@gmail.com I will then update your file immediately.

Thank you.

Berta Eddy, Office Administrator



**Pastor Dennis Roser and Pastor Dan Eddy
together...and still 6 feet apart**

**St. John's Lutheran Church
and Messiah Lutheran Church
are streaming Worship live
Sundays at 9:00 a.m.**



Calling all graduates!
In early Summer we'll celebrate those who are graduating this year from high school or college. If you have someone you would like us to include, please provide Berta with their name and the school from which they're graduating. Thank you.

Social-distancing or self-quarantining for safety doesn't have to mean giving up your time with God and His Word. The interactive parts of the service will be shown on screen, so everyone can easily follow along.

<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnslutheranbeloit/>
or <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw9-9SrlBpZwdB2bPj-7Stg>

Please join us!

"Let us also consider carefully how to spur each other on to love and good works. Let us not neglect meeting together, as some have the habit of doing. Rather, let us encourage each other, and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:24-25 EHV).

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**In difficult times, the best
compass you can have
is your moral one.**

The Governor's directive makes clear that Pastor Roser's duties are necessary for the good of the community, and as his support staff, I will continue to assist as best I can. However, part of the ongoing effort to reduce the spread of the coronavirus is to minimize being in public. I will therefore only be in the office on Mondays and Fridays. On those days I will be concentrating on getting the audio out, producing the Communicator and the Messenger, and other tasks that cannot be done from home. Stay safe and well. *** Berta Eddy, Administrative Assistant



Win Delicious Culver's Food!

We have a number of avenues we use to keep you apprised of the opportunities and events here at St. John's: The monthly Messenger, the weekly Communicator, the Facebook page, the Web page, the Sunday Bulletin, and (first and foremost) the Worship service. Many times we will repeat the information in more than one of the venues in an effort to make sure the information is reaching everyone. We'd like to know if the announcements we're providing are getting through and being remembered.

And so, the last weekend of the month, we'll have a list of four questions whose answers can be found in the one or more of the Messenger, Communicator, Sunday Bulletin, Facebook page, Web page, or during the Worship Service during the previous month. Submit the answers either in writing or by email to the church's Administrative Assistant by noon the following Friday, and a winner will be drawn from the entries with the correct answers. The winner gets a gift card for some delicious Culver's food!

officestjohnsbeloit@gmail.com
ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS!

- 1.) What has the St. John's Women's Guild been collecting during the month of March?
- 2.) What is the title of the Robert Hiller book currently being read by the St. John's Book Club?
- 3.) What timely event occurred March 8th?
- 4.) Who currently broadcasts live with Pastor Roser during Sunday Worship Services?



Did you know if you miss a regular Sunday Worship Service, you can watch it in its entirety on YouTube!

Just use this link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw9-9SrlBpZwdB2bPj-7Stg>

**The St. John's Women's Guild
is collecting shampoo and
conditioner on behalf of
Caritas from now until the
end of March.**



**Please place your
contribution in the
box in the Narthex.
Thank you.**

Thrivent Choice Dollars!

The deadline for directing your Thrivent Choice Dollars is fast approaching. If you have not yet done so, please either log in to your account or contact your Thrivent representative to direct your Choice Dollars. St. John's appreciates your help and support.



The CD ministry this week is sponsored by Jeanne Ludeman in celebration of her son, Dan's, birthday.

Thank you for continuing to care for the church by sending in your offerings.
3-22-20 Offerings \$4408.00 Missions \$245.00 Capital Needs \$10.00