

Report of the Lead Pastor for April 2020

Rev. Dr. Jack M. Horner

May 12, 2020

Baptisms: none

Funerals: Arbutus "Bootsy" Focht 4/23/20

Weddings: none

Last week the ELCA Larger Church Conference Linda and I were supposed to attend (Pompano Beach, FL ☺) was digital. The upside was John and Liz were able to "attend" as well. The presenter was Canadian pastor and podcaster Carey Nieuwhof. He asked a question that has been with me all week. Is this Covid time we are living in an interruption or disruption? When we get the green light do we go back to the old normal or will there be a new normal, one for which we must be prepared. (One of his illustrations was Kodak, who invented the digital camera, yet continued to operate primarily as a film processing company. Missing the cultural shift/pivot from their invention, they later went bankrupt.) We must disrupt ourselves, Nieuwhof says, or be disrupted.

I am thankful that our staff and key volunteers were able to shift so quickly to digital content for our ministry. Will this be an interruption from "normal" ministry or disruption to doing ministry differently in the future? I think the digital expression of our ministry is a powerful way to reach more people with the love of Christ. I hope we see this disruption as a growing opportunity to expand our worship, connection, and service. It will take some planning, refocusing staff, volunteers, resources, and the vision and will to see it through.

May 19th pastors of larger ELCA congregations are meeting via ZOOM to share ideas about how best to phase in openings when we are permitted to do so.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Jack Horner