

Jesus said, "My peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your heart be troubled or fearful. –John 14:27

These are interesting times!! Who would have guessed that a worship service would be cancelled (and weeks of school!) because of a virus that began to spread in China a couple of months ago! It certainly is a lesson to humankind that we are not as in control as we like to think (Psalm 103:15-16). We love to be in complete control, but that is simply an illusion. The coronavirus, and many other things, pops that bubble and brings us back to reality. Beware of the pride of mankind!

Let me update you on how we are responding to what the Governor of our state, and the CDC recommends. **The Elders will be meeting Monday night** in order to discuss what is known & unknown at this point. We do not intend to make long-term decisions (what we will do weeks from now). Rather, we will attempt to come to some consensus regarding the near future, especially regarding Sunday worship services. We will certainly keep in mind the health of the Liberty E-Free Church family as we consider options. But we do not want to act purely out of fear, or as people who do not have any hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13).

Some things you can be doing on behalf of Liberty E-Free Church this week:

PRAY-- Thank you to those people who took time to pray on Sunday afternoon. Continue to pray for the authorities running our countries and cities. Pray for the medical teams treating the sick. Pray for the men, women, and children who have been infected, for the people afraid to leave their homes, for those at high risk, and for the elderly. Pray to our Great God, that He might show us His mercy. Also, pray for the people at Liberty E-Free; for their health and spiritual growth during this time.

WITNESS-- Many lives are filled with worry & fear in the midst of the uncertainties of the coronavirus outbreak. This is a great time to initiate spiritual conversations and *"let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."* Throughout history, Christians have been known to sacrificially serve others during times of disease and plague. This pandemic offers all Christ-followers the opportunity to love people in practical ways.

PROVIDE-- Yes, our worship service was cancelled, and other activities at Liberty E-Free may slow down in light of this pandemic. But **ministry will still continue**. We still have ministries and facilities and missionaries and staff that still need your financial support. Please consider continuing your regular/ongoing "tithes & offerings" by either sending your check to Liberty (684 - 198th Avenue, Pella) or, this might be a great time to check out our online giving option (go to www.libertyefree.org and there is a tab on our homepage that will direct you to "online giving"). You can give online a single time, or set things up to give online on a consistent basis (note: many banks allow you to sign up for *Billpay* as another option). This is one of those *"such a time as this"* moments. We are so grateful for your past faithfulness!!

COMMUNICATION-- We will continue to keep you informed about what will be happening (or not happening) at Liberty E-Free Church. Remember, if something is cancelled, we will inform you by: an all-church notification chat/text (if you have joined Realm), email, and on the church's website (libertyefree.org).

FEAR or FAITH?? What's your reaction to this crisis? It's so easy to be gripped by fear. Perhaps this crisis is challenging us to react in a different way-- with faith and not fear. Faith not in human effort or in some unknown force. Rather, faith in Jesus Christ, the good shepherd who is also the resurrection and the life. Only God is in control of this situation; surely only He can guide us through this storm. He calls us to trust and believe, to have faith and not fear. As David recalled a time when his life was under assault, he wrote: *When I am afraid, I put my trust in You, O Lord. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?* (Psalm 56:3-4).

Stay Faithful & let your Light Shine,

Pastor Dane