

Thursday, March 19

Grace and Peace to All:

I suspect that I have been accused on more than one occasion of being "Lutheran." I do quote Martin Luther often and have read most of his works translated into English. What is making the rounds in theological circles these trying days are from a letter written by Luther from Wittenberg at a time when the city was being besieged by the Black Death. Luther wrote:

I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me and I have done what he has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbor needs me however I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely as stated above. See, this is such a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God. (Luther's Works, vol. 43, pg. 132)

I share these words to tell you that I am available: Rspin6477@aol.com

phone: (508) 944-4536. I am moving my car off-island tomorrow and can drive anywhere. We will keep in touch through our website and almost daily e-mails with what I hope relevant and uplifting words and prayers. If this does go beyond two weeks, which many are talking about now, we will attempt to provide video messages and services. I have the technology. Have not quite figured it out yet but you will just open an e-mail and play the video.

Pam Morse, who is the pastor of Sugarloaf Mountain Ministries, shared this prayer:

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake. May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable. May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health or paying the rent. May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools are closed remember those who have no options. May we who have to cancel trips remember those who have no place to go. May we who are losing money in the market remember those who have nothing to lose. May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home. During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other may we find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our families and neighbors.

Amen.

God Bless,

Roger