



October 11, 2020

Letter # 33

Dear Faith Family,

We have a special request to pray for the sister of one of our members—she is waiting for further reports from her radiologist and oncologist. There is one bit of good news so far—the lymph nodes tested clear. Prayer for the week: Merciful God, we pray for clear tests for our sister struggling with serious health issues. In addition, this week, we include teachers and children as Pre-K through 2nd graders return to limited in-person instruction. We pray for the gift of patience for teachers and all staff members who will be working to maintain mask-wearing and social distancing. This is not an easy task with this young age group. We pray for the health and safety of all your children. In Jesus' name, AMEN

It is difficult to assess where we are in the effort to limit the spread of the virus. Just when we think we are winning the battle and can gather in person, we experience a setback. Now that days are growing shorter and darker, we are more vulnerable to what Nadia Bolz-Weber calls, the monsters of fear and doubt. The media is full of messages that cloud the future. What will the outcome of the vote be? Will the outcome be legitimate? Will the outcome generate violence? All I can do is vote Christian values: justice, mercy, peace, love for neighbor, and welcome of all people. How will it end? Adding political chaos to the spread of the virus makes for unbelievable stress. Let us double down on patience with each other and take special care of those struggling through these times alone!

The garden that has brought me so much joy is winding down. The pumpkins have been gathered in and are ready to share. There are a few green beans to pick and tomatoes waiting to ripen. I am already looking forward to next year and expanding the "farm". We might think of using some of the church property (like the playground area) for a community garden.

This week I met a neighbor family—with eight children in all. Two young boys were walking across the street with rakes. We struck up a conversation and I hired them to rake the leaves in my yard. We agreed on \$2.00 a bag. They ran home for permission and soon I had four little boys and two girls working away. All of a sudden, Joe, who was somewhat shy, blurted out: "We're Catholic.". Well, I said, that's a good thing to be. How fun!!!!

Last week the 23rd Psalm was the Psalm in the lectionary. This beloved Psalm is often chosen by families planning a memorial service. I need to hear it NOW. What a contrast to the ways of this world. Close your eyes and find comfort in the images: shepherded by the Lord, green pastures, still waters, not fear but comfort, abundant food and drink, anointed and blessed to live in the house of the Lord—our whole life long. Maybe reading this is the way to start our days!!

God bless us all and keep us in God's care.  
Love to you all, Pastor Nancy