

August 5, 2020

Hello all,

I hope you've had the chance to enjoy some fresh, locally grown sweet corn, tomatoes, cucumbers and the like. If you listen carefully, they seem to be saying, "The Lord is in His heavens and He loves His whole creation. It's all going to be ok."

The Board of Day School Education meets this evening to determine how the 2020-21 school year will begin. It's no fun making decisions when the options are all bad. Any which way you go, there are risks (kids and staff getting sick, kids falling behind educationally, losing enrollment, etc.). My guess is even if we begin with full in-person instruction, at some point we'll be forced to do full or partial on-line instruction . . . *as will every other school that forges ahead with in-person instruction*. I do hope parents remain patient and understanding.

Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade confirmation will likely mirror what's happening in our school. If our school is doing in-person instruction, confirmation will also be in-person. If it's doing on-line instruction, it makes sense to let the kids remain home for on-line confirmation instruction.

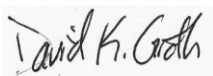
A separate board, the Board of Parish Education decided to suspend in-person Sunday School instruction at least through December. For now, they will be emailing the curriculum to parents and re-evaluate as we draw closer to 2021. I think this is a sensible decision.

As far as adult education, I'd prefer to move it away from Sunday mornings, and hold it at some time during the week. As with worship services, I'd like to spread people out in the sanctuary for this Bible Study and keep it to 40 minutes or so.

Last week I mentioned the trustees would soon cut down the Linden tree in front. They have since decided to wait until all the leaves have fallen, making the task easier. I'm happy for the white squirrel, particularly when that fox King Herod is lurking about (Lk. 13:32).

The memory verse for this week is from 1 Timothy 1:15, "The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost." A pastor in St. Louis asked that this be used as his funeral text. If you knew him, you'd say "But he was a very good man!" But he, like Paul, knew there's no sense for any of us to put on airs. If we are saved, we are saved by grace alone.

Have a cob or two of well buttered sweetcorn, ask the Lord's guidance for us all, and give thanks. "Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may Your Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen." God bless you all. I'm praying for you.



Pastor Groth