

**CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR-
PO Box 827 Lebanon Springs, NY 12125**

GIDEON'S TRUMPET SEPTEMBER 2020 VOLUME 12 #8

PRAYER CONCERNS

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry
Daniel Herzog
Deacon Leslie Groneman
Rev. Randolph Lukas
Father John
Missionaries
Bishops of Lutheran Synods

The Right Rev. William Love, Bishop
Rev. Frank Lockwood

Pope Francis
Deacon Peter
Metropolitans of Eastern Orthodox Church
Archbishop of Canterbury

US Government

President Trump
Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
Senator Charles Schumer
Assemblyman Jake Ashby

Governor Cuomo
Senator Daphne Jordan
Congressman Anthony Delgado

John & Teri Koeppe
Richard Jones
Debbie McLaughlin
Levi Guimarra
Nathaniel
Deanne & Rachel McCann
Heather Kromer
James Hudson
Rose G

Kristen Thompson
Lois Johnson
Marie
Michael D

Louis Godfroy III
Family Of Neil Haley
Katrina
Janis
Angela B
Margaret
Al & Jeanne Mayer
Eddie
Storm Riders
Janice C
Cliff Myers
Jamie
Carol & Beth
Scott Larabee

Ralph
Mary Ann H
St Mark's Church Philmont
Michael
Sue H
Theresa Hoffman
Martin
Karen McKeon

Gail S
Rich D
Dave F
Mary Dodd
Louis Godfroy III
Ron Peterson

John
Kenneth Duchazme
David Curran
Joanne Lockwood
James Hudson

US Military
Vestries & Ministries of Christ Church Cocksackie and Church of Our Saviour

Special Prayers for all who are suffering from the COVID19 virus & Those essential workers who are putting so much at risk for all of our sakes

From Father Frank

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

I am in the final stretch of my quarantine following my trip to the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. I was blessed enough that my day job provided me with work to keep me from having to use time off in order to accommodate the quarantine. It was good as it helped me to appreciate more the job of a receptionist and dealing with disgruntled individuals over the phone. On Tuesday, I return to work and my regular duties. That is, of course, assuming I remain symptom free.

I have had a lot of time, needless to say, to spend in contemplation over the past two weeks. My thoughts have been on so many topics that it would be difficult to explain and/or expand upon them all. Some of these thoughts have been on politics, primarily national politics. Also, on economics, helping Jinkx build his business, getting my motorcycles worked on and so many other varied areas.

I was asked to write about the Sturgis Rally for this article as the media reports have been particularly negative concerning the event. I thought long and hard over doing so. I have to admit to a bit of hesitation in attempting to write this. Why? Well primarily because I worry about such becoming fuel for political debate rather than food for spiritual growth.

In Paul's first letter to Corinth he had to address the issues of both Jew and Gentile coming to faith together and what that would look like. This included the issue of Kosher Foods and dietary restrictions. He summarizes his argument in a statement that I have often used to help me to shape the ministry whenever I am working with someone new or unfamiliar.

1Co 6:12

"All things are lawful for me" - but not everything is beneficial. "All things are lawful for me" - but I will not be controlled by anything.

Some of what this statement references are dietary restrictions. Paul discusses how he would give up eating meat in front of others in order to place a "brother's" mind at ease. He discusses how some are strong enough in faith to accept that even eating meat that may have been

sacrificed to a pagan idol has no effect on them. Others, as Paul says who are younger in their faith, may find it to be a place of temptation that would perhaps weaken their faith or lead them astray. Paul's advice then to the readers is that they should not take their freedoms in the spirit for granted and impose on another freedoms that they are not yet ready for.

What this looks like in practice for myself is, if I am having dinner with a practicing vegetarian, I will readily forgo the eating of meat products while with them. Am I a vegetarian? No, I am not. However, for the sake of our relationship and in respect of their beliefs, I will refrain. Likewise, if say, going out for dinner and someone in the dining party I am with is in recovery from alcoholism. I will ask them if they are "okay" with me having a cocktail during dinner. If they are not, then sweet tea or coffee it is. Why? Because I do not want my freedoms to be a case of fall for others.

To what degree do I then sacrifice for the sake of others? That is a bit more complicated to calculate. There does need to be a balance and mutual respect.

How this relates to Sturgis is in this way; for those of you unaware, the concept of freedom is a major foundation for the world of motorcycles. We describe riding in a car as "watching a movie" because you are kept separated from the environment by a windshield, roof, sides, and floor of the vehicle. Riding on a motorcycle is then described as "a starring role in that movie" because there is nothing that separates you from the elements. While riding you feel all the variations in temperature. You experience the rain, the heat, the sun, the wind and all that nature has to offer.

For "bikers" the gathering at Sturgis was about that. It was about feeling free for a time. Were people using face masks? Yes, many were. Were all of them? No. Then again, even in New Lebanon I have seen those who have not had a mask on in public. There were hand washing stations and sanitizer readily available for much of the public to use. So, contrary to some reports, precautions were there.

Additionally, as noted above, for the sake of others, I have quarantined for the past 11 days. Was this for my sake? No, not at all. This was for the sake of others. I am not only speaking about health concerns but also wherein some are regarding what they may or may not feel about the Covid 19 situation. For this reason, I have not even yet been "home" so as to have reduced the risk, physically and emotionally.

With that being said, I would be happy at some time to conduct a bible study in and around those Corinthian verses. Until then and until we see each other again in person, I pray that the peace of God which surpasses all of our understanding would be with you all.

Blessings and peace to all

Father Frank Lockwood

From Tistrya Houghtling- New Lebanon Town Supervisor

I hope everyone is staying safe and sane in these unprecedented times! When I became Town Supervisor I sure didn't anticipate a worldwide pandemic. Between homeschooling my three children, serving as town supervisor which has become more than a full-time job since covid hit, and sitting on the county board of supervisors, my schedule has been extremely full. In these challenging times, I would like to focus on the silver lining which is the way that our amazing community has come together to hold each other, support each other, and ensure that everyone has what they need to survive and thrive. We have had community members making masks to distribute free to all of our community members via the post office and free food giveaways. We have over 40 volunteers delivering free hand sanitizer and masks to people who need them as well as going grocery shopping for our more vulnerable community members. We started a GoFundMe to raise money for food for those who are struggling and raised over \$10,000 in 2 days which has fed over 20 families for the past 5 months. We just started the GoFundMe again as funds are running low and have already raised close to \$2,000 in less than a week. Our amazing school organized a free food distribution every two weeks throughout the entire summer, giving out over \$17,000 of food each time which has been provided free of charge by the regional food bank. Now that school is starting up again, the town is taking over these efforts and the food giveaway will continue every two weeks from the town hall parking lot. If anybody would like to donate money to our grocery fund, make masks to distribute and/or volunteer to help hand out the free food from the regional food bank, please contact me at supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com. Thank you all so much for everything you do to hold our community together during these difficult times! We miss you all so much and look forward to the time when we can gather in person again!

Tistrya, Steve, Julian, Kaitlyn and Harley

Other Side of the Mountain

Well, another month has come and gone – I don't know about you, but I do know about me and I've either got cabin fever or I'm going to become a hermit. Now there are some good things about being a hermit or having cabin fever which I'll elaborate.

First good or bad item (depending on your point of view), in the morning not only do you have a gravelly voice, but you also don't have to talk to anyone. Now the reason this is good is that when those scam and spoof telephone calls happen, you can become the Grouch from Sesame Street!

Second good or bad item is going shopping – since stores don't let you try anything on, you save so much money by not buying. Now the bad side of this is the money you save you spend tons more at the grocery store on items you never noticed the store sold. The good side is the Covid-19 pounds you put on forces you to realize you just cannot wait for the stores to allow you to try on because you need a whole new wardrobe!

Third, with a mask, no one recognizes you so you can stay incognito – those who MIGHT see thru the mask are afraid to say anything – like “you look well” or “are those your PJ's?”. So that is both good and bad.

Fourth, you have been discovered by not only charities but also a classmate from high school. That is both good and bad. For the charities, I always ask what percentage they take for fund raising – one solicitor told me 80% (I think she really did not know.) For my high school friend, I learned how fortunate I am – first to be alive since she listed all the classmates who had passed since our previous reunion and second, not to have all the ills, aches and pains she has endured.

Shall I go on? The last for now is really about my car – when I came back from Florida in February, I had 101,035 miles on my baby. Me, who drives everywhere, whenever I have to, now has a mere 160 more miles. And this is for almost 6 months!

I have to admit God has given me a chance to both slow down and to really review how blessed I am. Yes, He also gave me the chance to re-read the Psalms (my grandfather courted my grandmother with the Psalms) and to read those books on my “meaning to” list. I’ve also tele-touched or e-touched with the friends I am unable to see in person. Was this God’s plan for me? I really don’t know but He is a large part of my life and with His help, all of us will get through this.

Love, Peace and Wellness!!!

Susan Darcy

From the Junior Warden

Toot, Toot The school bus has arrived at Church of Our Saviour to collect school supplies for the New Lebanon Central School. The bus is in the front of the Fellowship Hall and will be there until September 20th. The school is accepting school supplies donated by us and are very appreciative. If you need some ideas you can go to the NLCS Website (NLCS New Lebanon: Choose Web site under the picture of the school, then go to more news, scroll down to School supplies, choose read more and then choose the grade or grades you would like to buy for). You may bring the supplies with you to service or leave them outside on the bench, Eugenia and or I are at the church every day and will bring the items inside for you. If you choose to purchase tissues the school is asking that you buy individual packages instead of the big box. Thank you for helping our children have a great school year.

Vestry update: The Vestry met via Zoom on 8/20/20, here are the highlights: Father Lockwood really enjoyed his trip and is tired but refreshed. He is on quarantine for 2 weeks per the state guidelines. Service sources will be included in the weekly note from Richard with the readings. Bible Study resumes on 9/26/20 at 5:30 pm in person and on Zoom, we will send out the coordinates later. The Diocesan Convention will be held on line this year and I will give a report in the November Trumpet. Work on moving the church office to the office in the Hall continues. The church will replace the oil tank in the rectory to avoid the issues we have had with sediment as the present tank is very old. The next vestry meeting will be 9/24 at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Church of Our Saviour has in previous years donated diapers to the mission of St. Francis in Albany where Guianese families are in need. I usually take the diapers to Convention but this year I will take them directly to St. Francis, so far we have 12 boxes donated. Mary Young Junior Warden

Thank you Mary

CALENDAR- SEPTEMBER 2020

SERVICES HELD IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL @ 8 AM

SEPTEMBER 6- HOLY EUCHARIST- FATHER FRANK

SEPTEMBER 13- HOLY EUCHARIST- FATHER FRANK

SEPTEMBER 20- MORNING PRAYER

SEPTEMBER 27- HOLY EUCHARIST- FATHER FRANK

BIBLE STUDY RESUMES ON SEPTEMBER 26

ZOOM INFORMATION COOS

Meeting ID: 634 647 3801

Passcode: 349101

One tap mobile

+16468769923,,6346473801#,,,,,0#,,349101# US (New York)

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Dial by your location

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+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 634 647 3801

Passcode: 349101