COVID-19 UPDATE #38 Contact info: church@stlorenz.org or mbrandt@stlorenz.org

5/1/2020 652-6141

* “Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”

Psalm 73:25-26

* Prayer at a time of disaster (LSB p. 317) (with slight revisions)

“Almighty God, merciful Father, Your thoughts are not our thoughts, Your ways are not our ways. In Your wisdom You have permitted this disastrous pandemic to befall us. We implore You, let not the hearts of Your people despair nor our faith fail us, but sustain and comfort us. Direct all efforts to attend to all who have been afflicted with this disease, console the bereaved, and protect the helpless. Bring hope and healing that we may find relief and restoration; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.”

* I’m told that I misspoke (again!) in my broadcast. Apparently, the stay-at-home is still set to expire May 15th. It was the state of emergency and disaster that was extended through May 28th. Sorry for my confusion. Hope I didn’t add to yours!
* May we help you? Call 652-6141 or write church@stlorenz.org
	+ We have 25 “runners” who will happily run errands for you.
	+ Prayer assistance is also readily available. We have 50 people who are eager to pray for you. Email nanzee1@aol.com or call or text 818-497-3843. We can also forward requests sent to the church office.
	+ Stephen Ministers can provide a listening ear and much more. Contact the church office.
	+ CrossRoads Counseling Ministries can be reached at 652-0764 to access telephone sessions or video conference sessions.
* Psalm 23 (Good Shepherd Sunday is this weekend)
	+ In the Old Testament, *shepherd* often meant *king*. What function was the king of Israel to serve? SERVANT, LEADER, PROTECTOR
		- Israel had no king at first. 1 Samuel 8 relates how it came to be that they got one.
	+ Hebrew parallelism in this psalm:
		- First half: “He”
		- Second half: “You”
		- Transition: “You are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”
	+ v. 1 “I shall not want.” Is this a command, a threat, or something else?
	+ v. 2 What are the green pastures and still waters of your life?
	+ v. 3 What does it mean that the Lord restores my soul?
	+ v. 4 What comfort do we find in the word *through*?

“I will fear no evil.” Is death evil?

What comfort do we find in knowing that God is with us? Rod and staff?

* + v. 5 What symbolism is found in the words “a table in the presence of my enemies”?

What does *oil* symbolize?

With what does our cup overflow?

* + v. 6 Why is this a fitting conclusion to the psalm?
* Worth repeating:
	+ Tell someone about these broadcasts.
	+ Tell someone about our Runners (or make use of them yourself). They will gladly:
		- Pick up groceries or prescriptions
		- Deliver a Portals of Prayer
		- Other pick-ups or deliveries as requested
		- Pick up offering envelope at your home and deliver to church office
	+ Please remember also that your offering can be given via the mail slot next to the main doors (south side) at the Rock.
* Our Frankenmuth city leaders are doing an outstanding job of gathering information and ways to help. Please check these web sites for updates and resources:
	+ [www.frankenmuthcity.com](http://www.frankenmuthcity.com)
	+ [www.frankenmuth.org](http://www.frankenmuth.org)
	+ [www.muthserves.com](http://www.muthserves.com)