

Loving God as Pastor

Shepherding in an Urban Setting even with Pandemic Realities



We love because He first loved us. (1 John 4:19 ESV)
Internalizing the love that God has for church workers.



Often assumed. Seldom said. Rarely received.

Theology of the Cross

Key to God's Love and Our Love for God and Others

¹⁸ For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

²⁶ For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord." (1 Corinthians 1:18-31 ESV)



What do you see when you look out there?





Power of Imagination

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2 ESV)

power in weakness, dignity for the despised, love for the low



Importance of **Word and Sacraments**

For us—
convincing and contagious
spirituality and piety



For them (the splash and food that make the difference)



















Challenge

Being together but feeling alone

Getting together in pandemic

Change and decay all around
I see

Compromised infrastructures

Safety and Security

How we are seen

Aspiration

Fostering intentional community

Meeting in-person and digitally
Continuing outreach

Offering and embodying stability

Advocacy of and insistence on
excellence

Security in the Lord

How one sees things



Ora et Labora

Pray and Work

“Behold what manner of love the Father has given unto us, that we should be called ‘children of God.’”



Soli Deo Gloria

Conference for Church Workers of the LCMS English District October 6, 2020

a presentation by The Rev. Dien Ashley Taylor, Ph.D.

Pastor, Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church in The Bronx, New York

First Vice-President, LCMS Atlantic District

Adjunct Instructor, Concordia College New York

Synod President's Voting Representative, LCMS Board for National Mission

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