



EST. 1850
CHURCH
516.931.2225
TrinityHicksville.org

TRINITY LUTHERAN C H U R C H A N D S C H O O L

40 West Nicholai Street, Hicksville, NY 11801

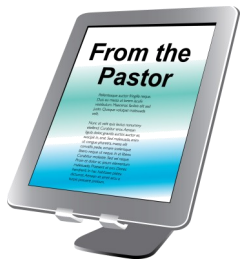
Reverend John Hopkins – Senior Pastor
Mary-Elaine Leake - Principal | Carolyn Gallegos - ECC Director



EST. 1954
SCHOOL
516.931.2211
TrinityLI.org

The Good News

March 2020
Volume 4 No. 3
Page 1



YOU CAN'T STOP EASTER!

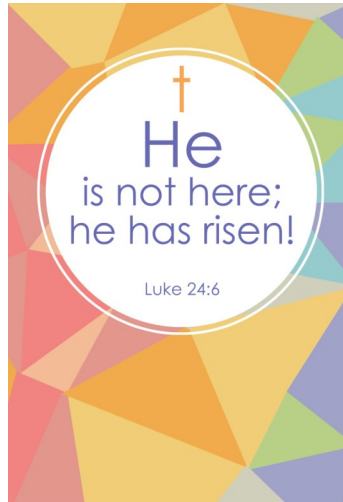
Palm Sunday is coming up in just a few days. We will be reading the Bible passages about what people were trying to do to stop Jesus from shar-

ing God's Word and calling people to repent. He was doing amazing miracles like raising Lazarus from the dead. In what should have driven people to God, that life was granted to the dead, the Jewish leadership was more concerned with earthly things. The Jewish leaders thought they were going to lose their positions, their control over the people. Caiaphas, the high priest that year, thought that it would be better that one die for the nation than the whole nation perish. Little did he know that in saying that, he was prophesying of what was to come. They plotted to kill Jesus. They did get Jesus killed. Killed on a cross. They thought they had stopped Easter.

But they didn't know about Easter. They didn't know about the resurrection of the dead. They didn't know that while Jesus died, He would rise three days later from the dead.

They couldn't stop Easter!

We live in a time where it would seem that Easter isn't going to happen. It would seem that since we have to stay in our homes, being quarantined because of the Coronavirus, that Easter isn't coming. Not so! Jesus rose from the dead alive! "He is not here. He is risen!!!" the angel said.



Easter has come and is coming. Now the only thing that will be different is how we worship this Easter. Yes, it will be online. We will be doing online worship for some time to come. Yes, the authorities pushed out the date when social distancing can end... a little bit further every couple of weeks or so, the latest as of March 31, 2020 is April 15th in New York. Our President said social distancing continues until April 30th. Doesn't matter, Jesus said "wherever

two or three gather, there I am in the midst of them." We will be gathered online, hearing God's Word, giving thanks and praising God that Jesus rose from the grave alive! Thereby, giving us the hope of everlasting life.

Continued...

Inside this Issue...

Pastor's Message Page 1
 More from Pastor Hopkins Page 2
 From the Deacon's Bench Page 3
 A Word from the Principal..... Page 4
 Early Childhood Center News Page 5
 Honor, Serve, Provide Capital Campaign Page 6

Board of Outreach..... Page 6
 Board of Stewardship Page 7
 Comfort Dog Ministry Page 8
 The Art at Trinity Page 9
 Lutheran Counseling Center Page 10



Remember, God is always about life. John reminds us of this in his Gospel account, "These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that by believing you may have life in his name."

Yes, indeed. We gather every Sunday, a little Easter celebration that is a reminder of The Easter in which Jesus rose from the grave alive! Nothing can stop that fact. We have every reason to celebrate that no matter where we are!!!

Because the point is this: You can't stop Easter!

Serving the Lord with you,

Pastor Hopkins

*To the people of God at Trinity,
Have a blessed Easter and the Lord provide you with abundant health
as we give thanks for all that He has given to us!*

*From the Hopkins Family,
Pastor John, Donna, Jacob, and Rachel*



Online Worship Schedule for Holy Week

Palm Sunday, April 5 at 9:00 A.M.
Maundy Thursday, April 9 at 7:15 P.M.
Good Friday, April 10 at 7:15 P.M.
Easter Festival Worship, April 12 at 9:00 A.M.



Please Note: This year we will forgo our Saturday Easter Vigil service.

Church Activities

Reminder: All church activities have been cancelled. This has affected many things. Yes, First Communion has been postponed as has Confirmation Sunday. Parents and students have been notified. When we are able to worship as a family of God in the sanctuary, notifications will go out when events and activities are free to resume and have been rescheduled. Your patience is appreciated.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

... for the May 2020 issue are due no later
than noon on Thursday, April 23!

By the time you read this we will have, or shortly will celebrate Easter. Easter, the fulfillment of God's promise to Adam and Eve after their fall into sin to reconcile us to Him. John, in his Gospel, describes Christ as the light that came into our sin darkened world and the darkness could not overcome Him.

On Good Friday, the altar is stripped bare, lights are out and the lectern and pulpit are veiled in black. It is depressing, and reminds us of what our sin cost Jesus. Jesus disciples were crushed. All they saw was darkness.

When you attend an Easter vigil, upon entering the church it is still dark. The Easter candle, the Light of Christ, is brought into the church overcoming the darkness and His light bursts forth in full glory. The organ plays a joyful alleluia, white and gold stoles appear on the pastor, and all depression and darkness is shattered. Death and sin are defeated. Easter is a day of victory. Easter is not just one day; it is every day as we live with the assurance that nothing can separate us from our Lord and we will spend eternity with Him. Christ is Risen Alleluia!

Deacon Doug Brosky

Your Deacons:

Doug Brosky

Betsy Lazarek

Debbie Vergara

Anthony Cavaliere

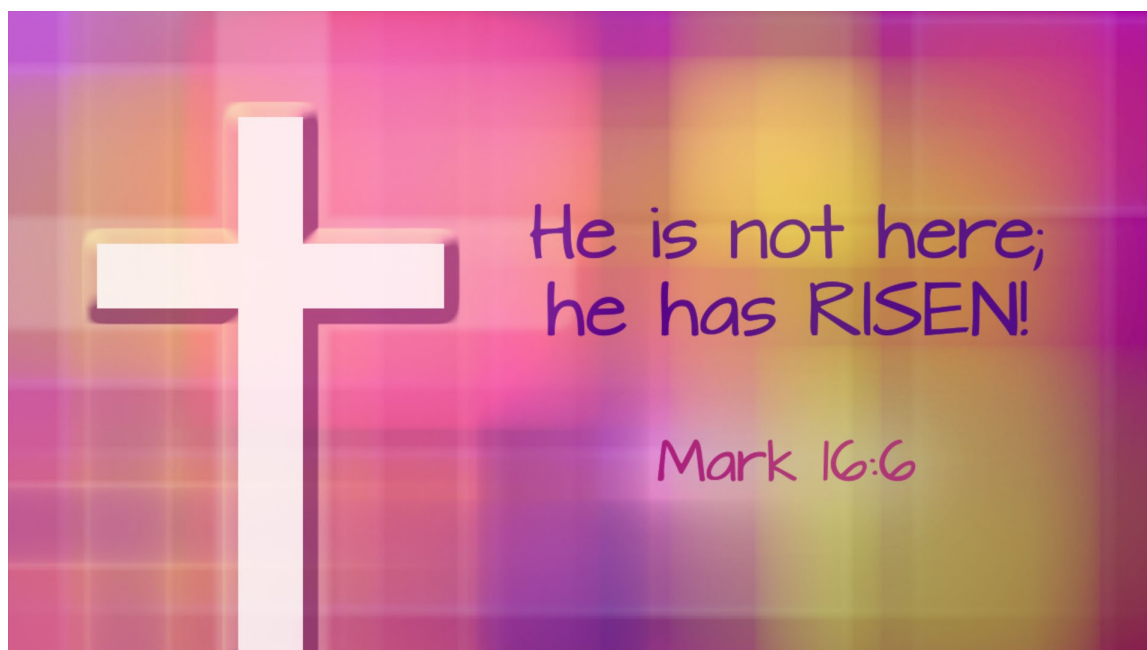
Peg Ruhs

Lynn Waldeck



Grocery Store Cards

At this time we will not be packing food bags for Easter. If you are able to help by mailing in any grocery/Targart/Walmart gift cards, we will mail them to those who need. It would be greatly appreciated. If you need help or need to talk, please call Lynn (ext 230). Easter blessings to all.



Dear Trinity Friends and Families,

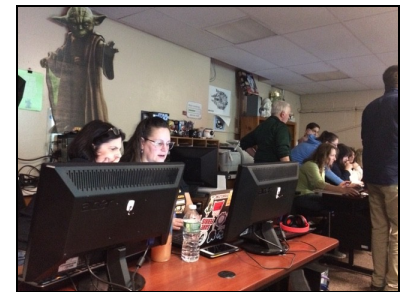
What a difference a month makes! While this is always true, during the month of March, the whole world is suddenly and dramatically changed. Our school was no exception.

At the beginning of the month, our spring sports season was about to begin, discussions about the spring concerts were underway, as well as discussions about all the other special events scheduled for the end of the school year. As we watched and listened to the reports about the Coronavirus, we began to see the swell that was turning into a wave. On the weekend of March 7, thanks to the efforts and expertise of Tom Perovich, all of the K-4 students were assigned user names and passwords for online accounts in Google Classroom. (The students in 5-8 already were using Google Classroom, but we needed everyone to be ready.) Around this same time, we surveyed families about the types of devices they had in their homes and their internet access.



By the next Monday, as we were trying to keep up with the mountain of memos that we were receiving from multiple government authorities, I made an unplanned visit to the Hicksville District office. While I was there, I saw that preparations were being made for an impending district shut down. I returned to school resolved to scrap the workshop I had planned for the staff for the upcoming professional development day on March 13. (This day off from school was on the calendar since it was made in the spring of 2019. Lucky coincidence? I think not!) With the help of Bobby Stainkamp, the day was retooled for a crash course about online

learning, including the use of Google Classroom, Zoom conferencing, and other resources. Bobby did a fabulous job. Supported by the middle school teachers, and Charlie Henle, Bobby took us through what we needed learn as we paired up in the computer room to begin our new online educational journey. Tom Perovich was otherwise engaged that day, with the installation of our new copier, but has since conducted tutoring sessions with individual teachers to help facilitate greater ease with online learning and the devices being used.



By Monday, March 16, all classes in the NYC and Long Island schools had been suspended. Monday and Tuesday were declared as "snow days" which provided Trinity's staff in the grades and in the ECC additional time to prepare for the shift to online learning. The remainder of the week was a rollout of our new approach to learning, and last week we launched. Tutorial videos were posted with assigned work; some classes, including some ECC classes, "zoomed" and other features were added as the week progressed. For example, you should see some of the workout videos our PE teacher, Lindsey DiCandia, posted for her students! Also, we have always started the day with morning announcements, prayer and the pledge. Through the use of Powerpoint and YouTube, this bit of normalcy was added to our new online routine by midweek. This week, we will be having grade school Chapel on Wednesday via Facebook Live.

How blessed we are to have the staff, knowledge, and resources to maintain our teaching and learning here at Trinity! While nothing can replace physically being together, we know that we are blessed to be able to reach out virtually. AND because of the tireless efforts of the teaching staff, our students will be prepared for the next grade and our 8th grade will receive their diplomas! This is not a claim that every school can make -- another blessing!

I know that I speak for the entire staff when I say I hope that you all stay safe and well!

Yours in Christ,

Mary Leake

"... fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous hand." Isaiah 41:10

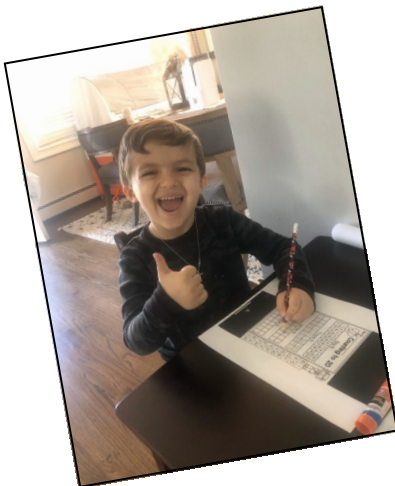
It is my hope that you and your families remain healthy during this difficult time. While most of our lives are looking different these days, one thing that remains the same is the love of our Lord Jesus Christ. At Trinity, the ECC staff continues to show that love to their students and families. While it does look different these days, the children and families know that Trinity's teachers are still there for them. The Early Childhood Center teachers have been working very hard to share resources, stories, circle time videos, and so much more with their students. We know the children are missing their friends and we hope to be able to be back to Trinity's classrooms as soon as it is safe for us to gather.

I shared this quote with the teachers at the start of this week. While our delivery is different during this time, our mission remains the same: make sure the children know they are loved and cared for. The ECC staff is working hard to make sure the children feel this love even from afar.

"One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers, but with gratitude to those who touched our human feelings. The curriculum is so much necessary raw material, but warmth is the vital element for the growing plant and for the soul of the child." – Carl Jung

I have included a few photos that the children have shared during their time working at home.

Carolyn Gallegos,
Early Childhood Center Director



For those of you who are Amazon shoppers, did you know that Trinity will receive a donation from them every time you make a purchase? It's called AmazonSmile. AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Trinity Lutheran Church and School every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to Trinity. Simply go to smile.amazon.com and enter your regular Amazon log in and password information. For "Pick Your Own Charitable Organization," type "Trinity Lutheran Church". Then bookmark smile.amazon.com and use it for all future



Amazon purchases. Even after you've designated Trinity as your Smile recipient, we only receive donations if you purchase your products through Smile. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages. For more information please visit AmazonSmile.



In this uncertain time, we can still find reasons to celebrate, thank the members of our congregation for their generosity and dedication, and, as always, to praise God for his blessings.

Our *Honor, Serve, Provide* capital campaign funds continue to come in. As of March 23rd, we have pledged and donated funds totaling \$247,565. \$220,705 of those funds have been received at Trinity's offices. After most of our original planned projects have been completed thanks to the amazing perseverance and commitment of members of Trinity's Board of Properties and the Security Committee \$73,983 remains available for capital undertakings.

Our hallway ceiling and multipurpose room ceiling projects have been rescheduled for the summer months due to the need to move fire alarms and new Nassau County Fire Marshall regulations.

As you can all understand, all projects have been temporarily put on hold. At present we are:

- in the process of upgrading our security system with more doors about to be brought onto the system with swipe entry. Other aspects of security are also in the works.
- looking for bids for waterproofing the ECC portion of our building. Dampness in all parts of our buildings need remediation. We began with Trinity's Church.
- the asphalt area of Trinity's playground has a sinkhole issue which requires remediation – yet another project for the summer.

We thank all of you for your continued support.

The Good News

From the Board of Outreach

Regarding spreading the gospel, Martin Luther said, *"If our efforts to bring people to faith meet with no success and we cannot attain the desired goal, we should nonetheless continue to rebuke, warn, admonish, plead, and pray. If men accept the Gospel, well and good. If they do not accept it, I say: Farewell, fine world! I do not intend to grieve myself to death because of your attitude."*

What does this mean for us who have a great opportunity at this time of fear and uncertainty to present the gospel of Grace and Faith in Jesus? Well it means we do not have to reason or argue with people in an obnoxious or pushy manner. We do not, as it were, have to "close the deal." We present the Word of truth to them over time. We even invite them to come to church. We pray for them. After that we wait for the Holy Spirit to work on their hearts for it is He, not we, who brings the faith needed for an individual to repent and trust in Christ Jesus.

Acts 2:47, ***"And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved."***

Acts 13:48, ***"And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed."***

Christ is present with us who are the faithful to give us comfort and strength, to free us from fear. He desires to bring the same to all men and women. If people accept the gospel and are granted faith, that is a cause to rejoice. We have been used by God to build His Kingdom. But if people choose to reject the Gospel and ridicule us, we should not become angry at them. Though we can still rejoice that we have fulfilled our calling, their rejection of Jesus should sadden us for it means an eternity of torment for them. Because of that, we must make the most of the opportunity we have.



On the topic of stewardship, one of the most common questions a person might ask is *not* whether a Christian should give to their church.

The most common question is "How much should I give?" "Should Christians give a tithe of their income to their local congregation?" So, let's look at why you should or should not tithe. Following are some reasons often offered for why Christians *shouldn't* give a tithe to their church.

Some say you shouldn't tithe because it isn't expressly commanded in the New Testament. Lacking that command, there is no "Thus saith the Lord" and no "should" for giving a tithe to your congregation.

Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these, together with treasures (money), add up to more than a tithe.

Still others say they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church.

And there are those who think Christians shouldn't tithe because of fear. If they tithe, they are afraid their gift will be misused, and they are afraid they won't have enough to get the things they use, want, or need.

Following are some reasons for why Christians *should* tithe to their church.

Even though the New Testament doesn't specifically command Christians to give a tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to tithe and did. On top of this, St. Paul often describes the giving Christians are to do in similar terms as a tithe: a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of their income (1 Cor. 6:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:7–23; 2 Cor. 9:2–7).

But what was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? The tithe was to support the full ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry.

What does it say in the New Testament? "The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther put in the *Small Catechism's* Table of Duties to cover what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we're not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let's answer this by asking a different question about something entirely different. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? There, is after all, no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest we have, and it states simply for Christians to not neglect gathering together. Even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments. It is the goal.

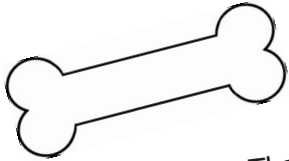
So, what would you say to that son or daughter? I'd expect that conversation would be something like this: "I'm glad you're still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God's promises of forgiveness, life, and salvation, and to receive His gifts in the Word and the Sacraments. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I'd really like you to try to attain it."

This same conversation is how we should approach the topic of the tithe. It's not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, the church is ecstatic that you're giving when you're giving in all these ways – time, talents, and treasures.



There's a Whole Lotta "BOOPING" Going On!

Abraham and Top have not slowed down one little bit when it comes to bringing comfort and smiles to the Comfort Dog Ministry Team and the people of Trinity. With social distancing in place, the "Booping Bandits" (my secret name for them!) have been busy sneaking Abraham's nose boop onto people's doors. Here are some photos of those boops that some of the recipients have shared along with comments I pilfered from Facebook. Enjoy!

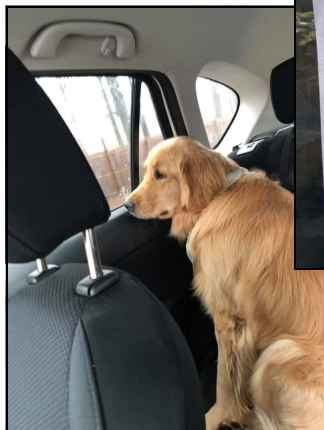
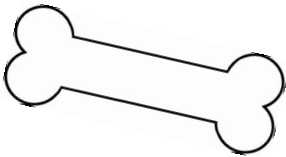


[Francine Gugliotta](#) That was such a wonderful surprise and really made our day. Donna and Abraham are the best ❤️



[Pat Rathje-Griffith](#) My great grandsons Robert and Ryan. They love Abraham and we're so happy to see him!

[Karen Ritchie Prohinsie](#) We were nose booped too!!! Didn't even see



[Sue Haines](#) We've been booped!

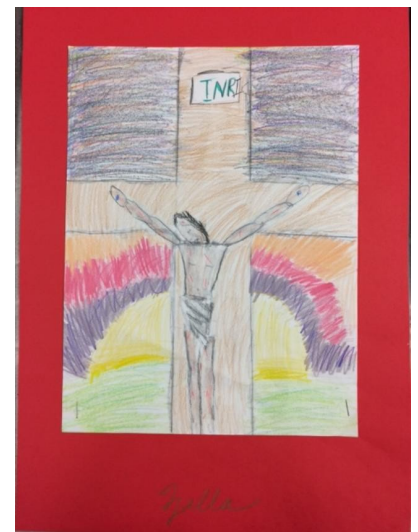
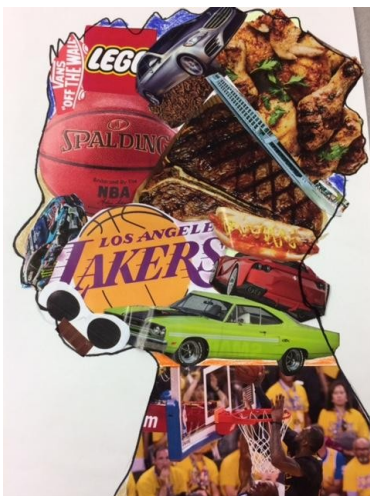
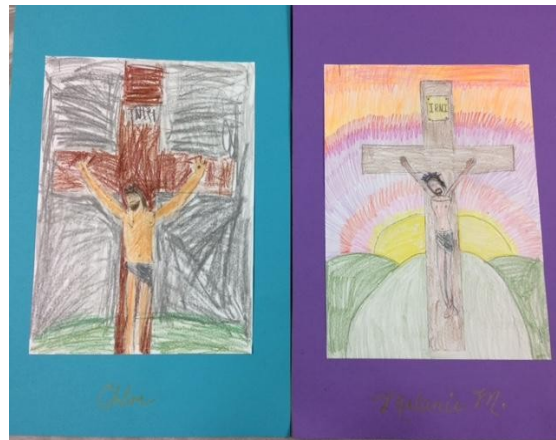
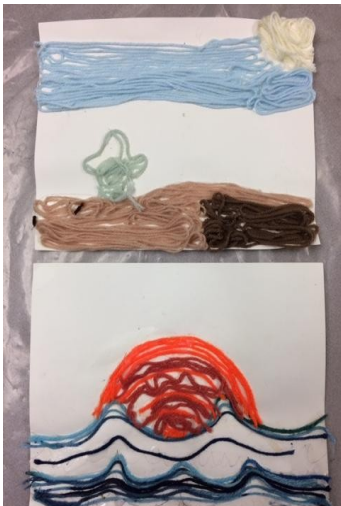


[Donna Arand-Hopkins](#) Definitely put a smile on our faces!



I thought I would share a few pictures I took of our school students' artwork. Enjoy!

~ Ellen Kerwin





UPDATE FOR APRIL 2020
WITH COUNSELING SITES LOCATED IN:
NASSAU SUFFOLK MANHATTAN QUEENS
WESTCHESTER BROOKLYN

Coping with Anxiety in Face of Coronavirus

By Rev. Thomas Taylor, LCSW-R, Ph.D., LCC Pastoral Counselor

"Why are you so anxious?", my wife asked Monday morning as I prepared to leave home. "Anxious? Me anxious? I'm about to get on the subway for the 1st time since the report of a New Yorker with coronavirus". And anxious I was, as I began to think through walking out of our apartment into a – possible – new reality of life with COVID-19, AKA, coronavirus.

We all have, no doubt, had similar anxious concerns about how best to protect ourselves and our loved ones. As a worshipping community whose life centers around gathering together, we are cautiously considering if gatherings of people – including worship – should be avoided. Yikes!

Anxiety, in and of itself, is not the problem. Anxiety is nature's way of warning us of impending danger. Anxiety becomes problematic when it hi-jacks our healthy warning system and races off into the catastrophic world of worst-case scenarios. Our anxious concern about coronavirus is, likely, merited but what is not merited, we hope, is catastrophic worry that immobilizes us from living our – even altered – lives.

So, how can we manage our anxiety in the face of COVID-19 – a legitimate danger that we still know little about? Andrea Petersen's piece* in the *Wall Street Journal*, published March 5th, outlines a number of helpful and mindful actions for us to consider.

Seek out reliable information – but not too frequently.

To avoid misinformation, seek out reliable sources of information like the CDC ([cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)) and The World Health Organization ([who.int](https://www.who.int)). One bit of advice – monitor and limit how often you seek out virus information. Consider limiting yourself to, say, 30 minutes a day.

Focus on what you can control.

We can add and control a number of preventative care steps like washing our hands, avoiding touching our face, etc. "Doing something proactive and productive helps us to feel less anxious," says Lynn Bufka, senior director at the American Psychological Association.

Find the right kind of support.

It is helpful to talk about your concerns. Dr Bufka, however, suggests seeking out friends and colleagues who are "fairly levelheaded when it comes to health matters". Careful not to talk with those who "tend to reinforce your fears". Remember, your goal is less anxiety!

Keep a healthy routine.

Among the many well-known healthy routines we already know about, consider Charles Marmar's – chair of psychiatry at NYU Langone Health – counterintuitive advice to purposefully reduce fear and anxiety by trying to "silo it off, compartmentalize it and put it out of your mind".

Try some anxiety-reducing techniques.

LCC therapist Forrest Parkinson's October 2019 OnCenter post "[The Art of Mindfulness](#)" suggests anxiety reducing techniques like paying attention to the here and now, "stopping and smelling the roses" (the Holy Spirit is at work), prayerful mindfulness especially in the middle of a disturbance, and, taking a deep breath in order to step back from a stressor.

If your anxiety is impairing your ability to function...

Reach out to your doctor, and / or call the LCC to meet with one of our counselors.

* "How to Manage Your Coronavirus Anxiety" by Andrea Petersen, *Wall Street Journal*, March 5, 2020. For more information or to set an appointment, call LCC at 1-800-317-1173. We have nine sites over the metropolitan NY area.