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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

40 West Nicholas Street, Hicksville, NY 11801

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



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The Good News September 2020 Volume 4 No. 8 Page 1



Welcome to Fall

Who would have thought we would have been here? How many months has it been since everything shut down? It started back in March! Sure things have gradually opened. But is it back to normal yet? No. But despite all things going on, pandemic, tropical storm, violence in our country, one thing remains the same: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord!

What is happening?

- School opens next week with face to face instruction. Yes, students and faculty will be back in school learning. But for those who are still concerned about the virus, there will be remote learning at the same time! Students at home will be taught at the same time as the teacher is leading class in the classroom. It will be one class regardless of the student’s location. Lots of work went into getting that done. Well done, Board of Technology, Board of Properties, and staff for getting this all done. See our Principal Mary Leake’s article for more details!
- With it being that time of year with school starting, Sunday school will be starting again too and will be taught remotely as well. Previously, we did not have in-person worship at 10:45, so consequently they are going to be creative on when those classes will be held. Look for more infor-

mation coming from our Sunday School Director Roberta O’Conner on the starting times for each class.

- Since school and Sunday school is starting up, that means we need to have a dedication and blessing of our teachers! **Exciting news here for everyone, we will have an outdoor worship on Sunday September 20 at 10:45am. The New Dimensions praise band will be playing. There will be singing. There will be Holy Communion!** Because of the needs of the band, the service will be held on the parking lot by the ECC. This will be in the same area and arrangement as when the band held their concert back in July. Keep in mind there will be social distancing and wearing of your mask. But it is an opportunity to worship together! (Recall, due to social distancing, we can only have 50 people in worship in the Sanctuary.)
- School starting up, means Confirmation will be starting up. In fact, it has already for some of our confirmation students who did not get confirmed and for those who did not receive First Holy Communion. Because of the need for these students to complete their projects and studies, **the beginning of confirmation for this fall will begin on Thursday October 15 at 7pm.** These classes for all grades will be taught through remote learning. We will send out a letter to all parents of students with the details.

Continued...

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- **Confirmation Sunday will be Sunday October 4.** This will be an outdoor service at 10:45am. We are holding this outside to accommodate as many family members as possible who would like to attend. Everyone in the congregation is also invited to attend. We will have Holy Communion at this service. A rain date for this service is Sunday October 11.
- A First Holy Communion date will be set as we get closer to the end of September. This will be a special service held at a different time as was planned initially. More details will be provided in the upcoming weeks.
- More Bible studies are beginning again in the Fall. Some will be able to meet face to face following all protocols. Others will be holding their classes via Zoom. Check the calendar to see when they begin and what is being offered.

During these trying times, your patience and flexibility is most appreciated. Especially recently with working on getting the school open with very little guidance on reopening until the last minute from state and federal sources, this has been a challenge. Even when we did receive them, the rules, regulations and recommendations they provided have at times changed daily. That has meant we have had to change our plans daily. It has also meant that as conditions have changed, parents of our school children have held off making decisions on whether to have their children attend or not. Their employment situations have also affected whether they would send their children or not. Again, more challenges for us. I mention this not to be alarming, but for you to know what your staff has been dealing with the last few months and especially the last couple of weeks. I am so proud of what they have accomplished! You should be proud of them too! All that being said, please keep us in your prayers! And keep your support coming!



Lots of information here in this article and in the following articles. Please read them all. There is a lot happening in your church and you are certainly a part of it!

Serving the Lord with you,
Pastor Hopkins



... for the October 2020 issue are due no later than noon on Thursday, September 24!

"These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God ."

John 20:31

Whenever we use Divine Service 4 of the liturgy, I love to hear these words in the Alleluia verse, sung just before the Gospel. What a wonderful reminder that we are hearing the words of Jesus, words that we can count on, words that we can trust and believe in. We don't just sing it one week, we sing it every week to remind us this. (As an aside, it also makes me wonder what wasn't written, was it the disciples playing practical jokes on each other, Peter singing off key, or Thomas misquoting scripture? That's for another column though.)

It will soon be September, and teachers know that repetition is key to learning. When we are young we repeat our letters and numbers, as we get older, we may repeat and memorize multiplication tables, in confirmation we memorize and repeat parts of catechism. How many of us can still repeat those sections that you learned? How much of our weekly liturgy can you repeat from memory? We are coming to the end of our church year, we will soon be remembering our history as we sing "A Mighty Fortress" on Reformation Sunday, remembering the faithful departed on All Saints' Sunday as we sing "For All the Saints", and then thanking God for all the he has given us on Thanksgiving as we sing "Now Thank We All Our God". What comes after? Our church year starts over and repeats again with Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost and we hear the story of Jesus from birth to resurrection repeated to us, so that we may believe. Each year that we start over, I hear something different in the readings, something that I never remember hearing before. It is the same thing with our hymns, perhaps something in verse 3 of a well known hymn catches my eye, something I never thought about. This gift of the Church Year, like a good teacher, allows us to relive and repeat these stories so that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.



"THESE ARE WRITTEN
SO ... that by
BELIEVING
you may have
LIFE
IN HIS NAME."
JOHN 20:31, ESV

Henry DeVries,
Minister of Music

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 [amazon smile](https://www.amazon.com/smile), 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](https://www.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](https://www.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.

One of our roles as Deacons is to teach the Word of God. We teach adults and teens as well as children and toddlers. We have a great resource which we draw on that provides the basis for what we teach: Luther's Small Catechism. Because we were made to memorize portions of the catechism in our confirmation classes when we were children, we may think that learning about Christianity is learning a lot of facts about God and the Bible or memorizing questions and answers. But God's ultimate desire is that we not only know about Him, but that we know Him.

This is the goal we have in teaching our adult New Member class. Although the materials we use in teaching this class follow the outline of the Small Catechism, we do not require adults to memorize portions of the catechism as we do with children. We teach that the six parts of the catechism really focus on relationships: with God first, but also with our fellow human beings.

The six topics collectively teach us Who God is, what He expects of us and how we are to live in His Kingdom. They detail for us God's design for life and relationships. When we ponder the chaos of contemporary life and try to figure out how we are to respond to the changing values of our relativist society, we must remember that our relationship with God is the most important. As we endure our tribulations we must recall the basics of what Jesus has taught us about life, love, forgiveness, and relationships so that we may glorify Him in all we do and say.

From Luther's Preface to the Small Catechism:

Our ministry today . . . has become a serious and saving responsibility. Consequently it now involves much more trouble and labor, danger and trial, and in addition it brings you little of the world's gratitude and rewards. But Christ Himself will be our reward if we labor faithfully. The Father of all grace help us to do just that. To Him be praise and thanks forever through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Deacon Anthony Cavaliere

Your Deacons:

Doug Brosky

Betsy Lazarek

Debbie Vergara

Anthony Cavaliere

Peg Ruhs

Lynn Waldeck



Thank You!
THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to all of our volunteers for the last few months. To our money counters, Altar Guild, and Sunday morning volunteers, thank you! An especially heartfelt thank you to our Board of Properties. They have been working tirelessly doing maintenance and repairs as well as getting the school ready to open.

We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers.

1 Thessalonians 1:2



To say this has been a summer like no other is an understatement. Those of us who worship in the sanctuary or those of us who now worship at home, online, (with a huge thank you to the entire Hopkins family) are very much aware of how our lives have changed. However, funds still coming in to the Capital Campaign from memorial donations and pledges have now reached over \$248,685. Thank you for your dedication to Trinity's Church and School.

Between needed glass replacement and items/projects now needed for both church and school to function during the pandemic we are more thankful than ever for your support of the Capital Campaign. Pastor and school administrators have been busy developing plans for New York State Education Department requirements and for our Board of Properties to implement.

The high temperature on the second floor of the school has been an issue year-round since the 60's. We are thrilled that a cost-effective means to air condition the school's second floor has been developed by the Board of Properties. Rather than installing central air at a cost of over \$60,000, there will be individual air conditioners installed in each classroom. Needed electrical work is being performed by our talented volunteers and eight units have been purchased with prescribed filters. In addition to materials needed, the a/c units will be installed, exterior windows will be sealed and interior of the windows will be finished. All for under \$12,000! Our teachers and students, now under masks, will be much more comfortable.

Keeping children socially distant and wearing masks all day is a tall order. The school will be required to keep the students in groups requiring art, science, etc. teachers to come to their classrooms rather than having the children move through the building. There are materials, such as having a cart with art supplies on each floor, that will make the process clean and more efficient -- the Capital Campaign is funding those materials as well.

Trinity's missions to spread the word of Christ may have been altered, but not curtailed thanks to your generous donations.



**You care
for the land
and water it;
you enrich it
abundantly.**

Psalm 65:9, NIV

Trinity, Trinity, how does your garden grow? With lettuce, tomatoes, egg-plant, green beans, zucchini, cucumbers, green peppers, hot peppers, and carrots all in rows!

Watering, weeding, mowing, planting and harvesting are all weekly tasks carried out by our volunteers. Two green thumbs up to Andy, Bernadette, Faye, Howard, Jane, Rich and Roland.

As of August 15, 100 lbs of produce has been donated to the New Life Food Pantry and our own Blessing Box with another month or more of harvesting yet to come. UPDATE: On Monday, August 17, another 40+lbs of produce was harvested and at least another 20 lbs on August 24. Praise and thanksgiving to the Lord of the Harvest!

Dear Trinity Families and Friends,

Theme and Bible Verse for 2020-2021

I always try to think of a phrase to capture the focus for the new school year and based on a scripture verse. This year, we chose Psalm 46:1 *God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.* We know that God is everywhere, yet, often, we think of Him as being up, above in heaven (even though we know he is everywhere). Many hymns and paintings perpetuate this image. Also, we know that Jesus ascended upward into the clouds. So, with the images of up and above in mind, our theme for this year is "Look Up." When the storms of this world seem like they are going to overtake us, let us remember to keep looking up to Him for guidance, strength, and peace.

With our appreciation and thanks...

We are all looking up and forward to a fantastic school year. A reopening task force of teachers and administrators met throughout the summer to create the school's reopening plan and prepare for its implementation. Many thanks go out to Pastor Hopkins, Carolyn Gallegos, Charlie Henle, Jennifer Forte, Karen Sanders, Jayne Flomer, Christina Agostino, Maureen DeGennaro, Bobby Stainkamp, and Tom Perovich who met with me each week to plan. We have been blessed by the dedication and talents of Trinity's Board of Property and especially John Haines, Carl Osmundsen, Warren Breuer, and Matt Musumeci for the installation of air conditioners and all the work related to this project not to mention the many other projects accomplished by the BOP this summer. Thank you! Thanks to Tom Perovich and the Technology Committee, the school is ready for in-person and remote learning in the classrooms. We are grateful to Lauren Straub and the members of the Honor, Serve, Provide Committee for the financial support designated for these building improvements. We are also deeply grateful for generosity of anonymous donors for their support of our school. Finally, our thanks go out to the staff for attending meetings throughout the summer, and to the teachers who moved and re-arranged classrooms to help ensure proper social distancing, and to Charlie Henle who helped to coordinate these room changes. Thank you one and all!

School is starting!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The grade school will ease into the new year with the middle school students starting on Wednesday, September 9th. The kindergarten, first, and second grade students will join them on 10th. The third through fifth graders will begin on Friday, September 11th. Yes, school will be open for 5 days a week. Grade school students have been given the option of attending in "real-time," remotely or in-person. We look forward to Monday, September 14th when the ECC students will begin their year.

Sunday, September 20

A special service of worship will be held on Sunday, September 20th at 10:45 AM. This will be an in-person service of Holy Communion that will be held outside. The church and school staff and teachers will receive a blessing and scholarships will be announced for member children who attend our school. All are welcome!

After many years of service...

After many years of dedicated and devoted service in Christian preschool education, Jane Kramer and Kathleen Krass have retired from the classroom. We wish them well and God's blessings! We will be recognizing them at a special service in October. More information will follow soon.

Hope and joy in the midst of the pandemic...

Life events continue even in "these times." We were delighted by two special arrivals this summer. In July, we welcomed Kenna Morgan Stainkamp and in August, the Pugliese's became grandparents with the arrival of George Daniel. Congratulations Stainkamp, Pugliese, and Theocharis families!



Yours in Christ,

Remember -- keep looking up!

Mary E. Leake

Trinity's Early Childhood Center staff is busy preparing to welcome the children for our 51st year of pre-school education at Trinity! This summer has been full of planning and preparing for a school year that is going to look different. However, it has been too long since we have heard the voices and laughter of the children at Trinity. So many staff members and volunteers have worked tirelessly over the summer to create a safe and welcoming environment for the children. I would like to thank the entire Trinity family for your help and prayers as we prepared.

Teachers and staff will be welcoming the children to meet their teacher and see their new classrooms on Thursday, September 10 and Friday, September 11 by appointment. The first full day of Trinity's Early Childhood Center will be Monday, September 14.

Trinity is blessed to have many dedicated staff members who go above and beyond each day for the children and families we serve. The staff has many wonderful activities planned for the children and are looking forward to meeting their newest students. We are all excited for a year filled with learning, laughter, and love with our Early Childhood Center children!

Carolyn Gallegos,
Early Childhood Center Director



SAVE THE DATE!!

**Sunday, October 18, 2020
10:45 am (outside service)**

The 50th Anniversary celebration of Trinity's Early Childhood Center was interrupted last spring. Please save October 18, 2020 for a celebratory service honoring Joyce Rausch. Joyce was the longtime Director of Trinity's Early Childhood Center and was chosen to be our honoree as we celebrated 50 years of Early Childhood Education at Trinity. This service will celebrate Joyce and her many years of dedicated service to the youngest children at Trinity. Details will follow and we hope you will be able to join us.

In these days of COVID isolation I have found it difficult to witness for Jesus in person. It is no longer easy to do this when I am shopping in my local supermarket or the COSTCO store. I am not really in the mood to preach the gospel with my mask on.

So I have focused on social media. This is not a new strategy for me as I have been ministering on the Internet in various forms since 1999. Now I focus on Social Media, primarily Facebook but also LinkedIn and Twitter. I have learned to avoid expressing political opinion but focus on spiritual issues, though the fact is, the two do go hand in hand. How we vote ought to reflect our Christian beliefs. How we discuss politics and culture on social media also ought to reflect our Christian calling. Instead, many get angry at people who do not share our opinions. Many speak words of malice and vengeance because they think they are right and others who do not agree are not only wrong, but ignorant and not even entitled to their express their thoughts.

But we are sinning with such venomous outbursts. They tear people down and fail to build them up or even allow them to hear the Gospel. In fact, our expressions of anger and ridicule do not give us a chance to share the Gospel at all.



If you want to express anger, then express it at the one who is at the root of all the chaos, problems, and hatred we see in our nation and our world today: Satan. He tempts and enslaves billions to sin, thereby fostering his agenda of violence, hatred, and unrighteousness. Make no mistake: sin is the real problem plaguing our nation, not racism, COVID or the president.

As Christians we must pray against Satan's deadly influence. In addition, we must focus the Social Media discussion on spiritual matters. We must preach the balanced Gospel of Law and Grace so that the Holy Spirit will convict people of sin and lead them to faith. We cannot do this with memes and slogans but with words of mercy, love, and understanding.

"Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' To the contrary, 'if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans 12:19-21

Deacon Anthony Cavaliere

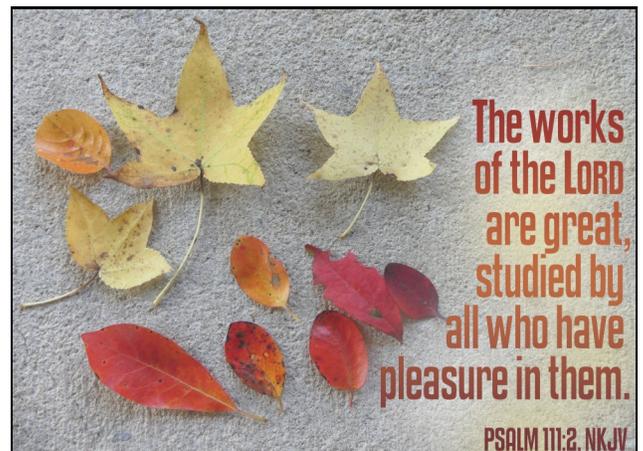
BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study
Tuesdays @ 3:30pm in the YSR

Ladies Wednesday AM Bible Study
Wednesdays @ 9:30am in the Stammel Center

Exodus Bible Study
Wednesdays @ 7:00pm via Facebook Live

***Watch for Bible study additions in the weekly
Friendly Reminders!***



“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.” Ecclesiastes 9:10

God bids us to be faithful in the tasks He calls us to do. He calls us to be members of a family (husbands and wives; fathers and mothers; sons and daughters). He calls us to be members of society (those who govern and those who are governed). And He calls us to be members of His family, the Church (those who preach and teach and those who hear and learn). Each of these callings from God places a duty on us.

As members of a family, husbands are given the duty to die for their wives as Christ gave His life for His bride, the Church; while wives are given the duty to respect their husbands and submit themselves to them as the Church does to Christ. Fathers and mothers are to raise their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord, teaching them the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, and the Scriptures concerning Baptism, Confession, the Office of the Keys, and the Lord’s Supper. Children are to honor their parents throughout their lives, and even when their parents are no longer alive, serving and obeying them, loving and cherishing them, and speaking well of them.

As members of society, God calls those who govern to bear the sword, that is, to punish those who do evil (those who live contrary to God’s will) and to reward those who do good (those whose lives are lived in conformity with God’s will). Those who are governed are to obey their leaders as to the Lord Himself, for their leaders bear the sword of God’s temporal justice for a purpose.

As members of God’s own family, the Church, He calls those who preach and teach to do so in faithfulness to His holy Word. To preach and teach the Law of God to convict the hearts of hearers of their sin and to encourage, admonish, and exhort them to do good works in accordance with God’s will. They are to preach and teach the Gospel, the full forgiveness of their sins accomplished by Christ and received through faith, not by works. They are to administer the means of grace in accordance with the Gospel and the Word of God. They do all this for the young and old alike, for those who are near and far off. Those who hear and learn are to submit themselves to their preachers and teachers. They are support them by their prayers and their gifts. Each of these callings from God place a duty on us. They make a claim on our presence; on our prayers; and our time, talents, and treasures. So, “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might” (Eccl 9:10). Pray for your family, your government, and your church. Give of yourself by means of your time, your talents, and your treasures to your family, your government, and your Church. That is what it means to be faithful in the tasks that God has given us. That is what it means to do it with all your might.

Deacon Anthony Cavaliere



Kick debt once and for all! Yes—it’s possible. Join Trinity’s virtual **Financial Peace University** class and learn the proven way to dump debt and build wealth. It’s not a joke or a get-rich-quick scheme. It’s God’s and grandma’s ways of handling money. You can do it! And now, you can try Financial Peace free for 14 days! Visit fpu.com/1123349 to sign up and learn more. Class starts **Thursday, September 24, 2020.**



"Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves." 2 Corinthians 13:5

Recently Abraham has his annual physical. The doctor told us he is as healthy as a horse. Abraham looked up at her inquisitively. I bet in his mind he was thinking "but I'm not a horse, I'm a comfort dog." It's been a long six months of quarantine. We have kept up on Abraham's commands, but he sure misses interacting with people. On days when I see he needs a little more structure for his day, we do command training. We need to redirect his mind and focus on what's important. But then I think about us. What do we do when we need a little more structure for our day? When was the last time you had a check up? How long has it been since you've had a spiritual checkup? We go to doctors and dentists for periodic examinations. We take our cars for occasional tune-ups. Tests are given in school to be sure the students are really learning. So in our spiritual lives, we need a faith checkup every now and then. To detect health problems before they become serious, doctors recommend a routine physical exam. We can do the same for our spiritual health by asking a few questions rooted in the great words the Bible gave to us.

Do I love God with all my heart because He first loved me? Which is stronger, my desire for earthly gain or the treasures that are mine in Christ? He desires that His peace rule our hearts.

Do I love God with all my soul? Do I listen to God telling me who I am? Am I moving away from self-centered desires? Am I becoming more compassionate, kind, humble, gentle, and patient?

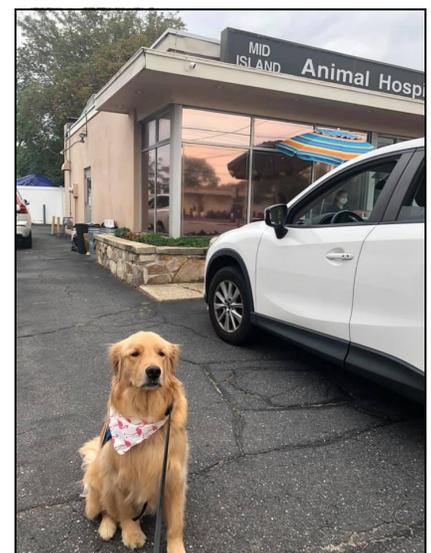
Do I love God with all my mind? Do I focus on my relationship with His Son or do I let my mind wander wherever it wants to go? Do my thoughts lead to problems or solutions? To unity or division? Forgiveness or revenge?

Do I love God with all my strength? Am I willing to be seen as weak so that God can show His strength on my behalf? Am I relying on His grace to be strong in His Spirit?

As we let "the message of Christ dwell among [us] richly ... with all wisdom," He will equip us to build each other up as we become spiritually fit and useful to Him.

So take a minute to do your spiritual check-up. No vaccinations required!

Donna Haines,
Comfort Dog Ministry Top Dog





UPDATE FOR SEPTEMBER 2020
NOW WITH SECURE, VIRTUAL COUNSELING SESSIONS AVAILABLE FOR ANY NEW YORK RESIDENT

In A 'Pinch'

By Craig Canfield, MA, LP, LCC Counselor

"Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies." 1 Cor. 6:19-20

Has this ever happened to you....a loved one with whom you are sheltering during quarantine, has, with all the best intention, come up to you and with that lobster claw of thumb and forefinger pinched a section of that annoying extra spare tire that surrounds what was once your waist? Sometimes words accompany the gesture. Sometimes not. But what inevitably follows is annoyance, anger and a persistent sense of violation. What was formerly under your shirt and deep in denial has been revealed.

"What right do they have?" We find ourselves saying. The answer is *every right*. Finding yourself in that kind of 'pinch' can, if we accept the British definition of 'pinch' in the expression, "in a bad situation when help is needed", find its parallel in our situation currently with COVID 19.

With the virus we now know that we possess a certain ability, by social distancing, wearing a mask and washing our hands frequently, to influence whether or not we become infected. Similarly with our own bodies we have learned recently that certain genes once pessimistically believed to determine our future can actually be turned off and on, affected by our own nutritional choices. Anyone with a computer cannot argue ignorance of such discoveries. The likes of doctors such as Colin Campbell, Caldwell Esselstyn, Joel Fuhrman, Michael Greger, Neal Barnard and Mark Hyman have flooded the internet with educational videos in critique of SAD [the sad American diet] and where it is leading us. "Out there" exposure to the virus is a destructive thing, but within our sheltered environments, "exposure" of what our denials have helped us cover up may not be such a bad thing. What we resist knowing might be slowly killing us, certainly shortening our lives.

The virus can put us in a 'pinch' as well, forcing us inside, but inside in a symbolic sense where we are left to confront ourselves. Are we to allow ourselves to join psychotherapy's betrayal of the body where little attention is called to our clients' physical state of health? When mentioned by the counselor, it is often covered over by the frequent response, "I am not here to discuss my physical state. I have a doctor for that." Yes, but in treating the whole person as a good therapist should, it is vital that one's denial about a medical danger be addressed and dealt with in a loving way. Very little therapy gets done after major strokes or diabetes sets in.

How can we say that we care for the mental and spiritual states of those that come to us for help with depression, anxiety and relationships with their loved ones yet never address the ravages of food addictions and poisonous diets? Whether it's from a loved one or from the fear of contracting the virus itself, sometimes it's only in a 'pinch' that things get transformed.

Craig Canfield counsels couples, adults and teens virtually at this time. When pandemics aren't here, he relates to our Brooklyn site. You can check out his bio here: <https://www.lccny.org/locations-pages/brooklyn-bay-ridge/> If you feel you and your child need help adjusting, call LCC at 1-800-317-1173. For safety, all sessions are provided using a secure, HIPAA compliant virtual video and/or audio platform.