

From the Window View of DCE Wiemer

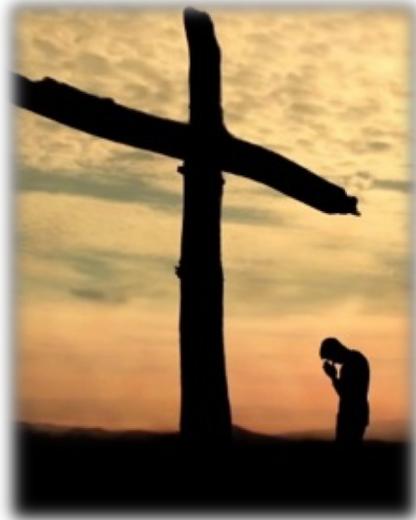
Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD
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It is very easy to get caught up in the grief and darkness of this world. To find blame in ourselves, but to also blame others. We have quotes and sayings that help us through depressing times, for example; “Some good will come from this, I swear,” or “This too shall pass.”

The first quote above comes from the hymn “Weep with Us, Jesus,” written by Jerry Vajda after a car whose driver suddenly blacked out plowed into a group of children on a bench on the third base line on the first day of Little League practice in Riverside, Illinois in 1991. Three children were killed, eight were injured.

Jesus told his disciples, “In this world you will have trouble.” How do we face tragedy and trouble when it comes our way?

We all have struggles and dark times of our own both personally and in this world. For example, we look at different states - New York and Illinois - and are distressed by their actions of passing the Reproductive Health Act, allowing children to be killed even up to birth. To hear the Governor of Illinois saying that this law will make the state “the most progressive – in terms of women’s reproductive rights.”



To which I hope our response – the Church- would all agree, “Lord, have mercy!”

Jesus said, “In this world you will have trouble, but take heart, for I have overcome the world.” – John 16:33.

This world has gotten to be too much for us these days. We live in a sinful world and continue to suffer the consequences as individuals, schools and congregations, communities, and nations. We know this is a fact of life, but it is hard to bear. Only by Jesus are we able to manage, to jumble through the challenges we face in our own lives, in the lives of our families and our neighbors. Even in the face of death, we find our life – even here on earth – in the name of Jesus Christ alone.

*“Weep with us, Jesus, at our loss
As once you wept for Lazarus.
Who knows but you how deep our grief,
Who else but you can bring relief?”*

As the body of Christ, we have been called to stand beside those who grieve and suffer trouble. In the face of the unfathomable and unpredictable, we turn to our God, a God of mercy and love, come what may. We live as people whose greatest hope is to be resurrected with Jesus, who is like us in every way, yet without sin. He has overcome the world at the cross, and stands beside us in all our troubles.

Martin Luther once said, “*Christ comes and take the heart captive...I am Christ, who placed myself in your misery to drown your sins in my righteousness...*”

What great comfort to know that Jesus abides with us, and we do not have to dwell in darkness because we have the light, that is Christ Jesus, our Savior!

Keep shining Christ’s light – don’t hide it under a bush!

– DCE Rebecca