

**But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ( 1 Peter 2:9 )**

I knew we should have worn masks on that plane trip to California last week. Really, I would have been one of only about three people who would have. Instead I am one of probably dozens that are testing positive for Covid this week. Even though Carol and I are fully vaccinated and "boostered", we still got this nasty disease... full symptoms ands all.

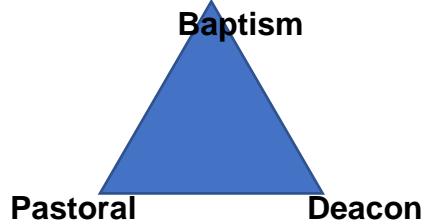
This disease is no joke and is extremely dangerous for any one who is immunocompromised. Even though Covid seems to have taken over my life again, it's not the subject of this article. This article is actually about the priesthood of all believers. We are a congregation that continues to be truly amazing in our call and ability to jump into action when needed.

Tuesday morning I woke up to the text from CVS that my Covid test was positive. I immediately called our Council President and shared with her all the great news of our sickness. She jumped into action and I too continued to make calls to cancel activities and find people to help in the places we still needed to schedule such as worship services.

Within a few hours we had everything taken care of and PLAN B began. Vacation Bible study was going to continue with a few more people coming in to help. Retired Pastor Dave Hall offered to preach and lead worship for this Sunday. There are so many others that are working behind the scenes to assure the congregational ministries continue even in the absence of the Pastor.

This past weekend at the Grand Canyon Synod Diakonia retreat, Reverend Doctor Craig Nesson from Wartburg Seminary shared a new vision of church leadership that, at first, seems to turn our thinking of how the church is lead, upside down. **It seems as if we are a bit ahead of our time! OR are we going back in history?** One of the goals of the Diakonia program is to build confidence in the lay leader to be able to full fill the baptismal vows of being a child of God.

Peters Concept – Three Ordinations



Luther's Concept of church leadership



In Peter's early church the concept of ordination was for everyone starting at our Baptismal vows and then leading into Deacon work and then into Pastoral ordination of Word and Sacrament. All three ordinations worked together.

Luther's concept became more hierachal where ordination is reserved for Pastor's and Bishops.

As the Reverend Doctor Nesson mentioned, I too think we are heading for a new reformation where we are returning to the early church concept of leadership!

Thank you all for taking your baptismal roll serious as a child of God called to be the church !

Peace,

Pastor Tony Scheer