

Pastor Brian's
Mid Week Message
January 22, 2020

“SLOWING THINGS DOWN A BIT”

Sure has been cold these last few days! The temperature dropped down to 35 degrees this morning up at our place in Venice. The wind chill might have been -176...then again...maybe not. But, what is temperature other than a measure of the average speed of all the air molecules in a certain location. The faster they're moving the more collisions that there'll be between them and those collisions generate heat. When the molecules slow down, they bump into one another less frequently and therefore the generation of heat is diminished. We feel cold because of the difference between the heat of the air and the heat generated in our bodies which keeps us right around 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit. Heat flows from warm to cold, so the heat loss from our skin surface makes us feel the chill. The greater the difference between air temperature and body temperature the faster heat is lost and the colder we'll feel. Our bodies must work harder to maintain that constant 98.6 degrees. Now what does all this have to do with faith and the Church? Stick with me here...I'm trying to draw a parallel to our visioning and planning session this past Saturday and what things should look like as we move forward. Looking back on the ministry of Jesus I don't ever recall reading anything about Him being in hurry. Yes, he preached and taught of an urgency of proclaiming the Kingdom of God, but never did he rush around trying to get it all done in a day. He moved methodically from place to place and from person to person, focusing His full attention on what was in front of Him at a particular time. A wise young pastor from our past once informed us that our walk with Jesus in this life is a marathon, not a sprint. Doing His work is a lifelong journey. Going at sprinter speed (yeah, like I could ever do that!) will quickly cause us to tire and "run out of gas". We won't get to where we want and need to be. As a group when we begin to rush into and through things, we often begin to generate heat. As a church trying to move too fast causes us to collide with one another more frequently which can drive the temperature of our relationships up. Warm is good, but when it gets too hot we've got a problem! As our internal relationships then melt so will the effectiveness of our outward directed efforts, our ministry of the Gospel. There are a lot of things in front of us here at Trinity Lutheran Church of SW Florida. In our 4+ year history God has blessed us richly and He has much more for us to do in this place and beyond. Looking forward let's make sure we don't try to go too fast. Yes, there is an urgency to getting the message of Jesus' love and grace to the people around us, but to be effective we need to follow the example of Jesus and deal each day with what comes before us within the overarching plan of bringing the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ to everyone while we still can.