

Sermon: October 11, 2020
"Seasons and Care-giving"

I enjoy my non-church "buddies." They ask about the church ... "Hey, how it is going, Rev??"
Oh, we are hanging in there!! Doing the best we can. The church is the church ... it's about doing
"good stuff" for others ... even in difficult times.

Are people coming? ... they ask.

Yes, gradually ... people are coming back. You know ---- you are always welcome to come!!
Rev ---- I am enjoying the church on-line. Get up in the morning ... have some cereal ... a good cup of
coffee ... maybe even an early mimosa ... and I get to see you on the tv.

Yes, I know our team puts up a good show. Do you have an offering plate in your kitchen??
(Funny ----- a week later we get a check in the mail!!)

Irene and her granddaughter walk into church Thursday night. Irene looks tired ... she says to me:
"My dad died last night."

I've been thinking all week about the "seasons of life." I look at the "Melka-mums" in front of my house ----
bursting with color. Is this my favorite season?? Winter used to be ... but as I get older --- not so much!!

How about spring? ----- the crack of the bat in spring training ... flowers blooming, green grass.

And summer? ----- what happened to summer this year? The virus took away so much of the magic.

The seasons have taken a different turn over the past 8 months. Some of the beauty and raw joy have
escaped many of us. Some of the "innocence" has taken a back seat ... since our world has been turned
upside down. There are other "seasons" that have taken over.

Seasons of doubt. Seasons of pain and loneliness. *Seasons of sadness and grief.

*Seasons of battling illness.

For Irene on Thursday night ----- a season of loss.

Irene ... like most of us ... is a pretty ordinary person. And yet ----- like some of you ... she has a very
"un-ordinary" and "sacred" calling. SHE IS A CARE-GIVER.

This morning ... as we think about the changing seasons ... we need to take a few moments to
acknowledge and pray for CARE-GIVERS.

Blessed are the poor.

Blessed are the meek.

Blessed are the humble and the peacemakers.

BLESSED ARE THE CARE-TAKERS IN THIS WORLD!!

I know a lot of you are.

Irene took care of her dad ... she looks out for her brother ... she has 3 grandkids living with her ...
and she still works!! Yes, like many of you ----- she juggles all this in the middle of a world that has
been turned upside-down and sideways.

There is no more sacred calling than to care for another.

Their life becomes your life. Their comfort ... their safety and destiny ... their journey is in your hands.

Yes ----- your life and their life are ONE.

I think of Lori's son Tom. He was laid-off during this pandemic. But then he landed a "job" that is
priceless. He's been at home caring for his mom. We laid his mom to rest on Friday.
Tomorrow we have a funeral for Jackie's sister Lynne. She's been caring for Lynne and her 96-year-old mom.

When she told her boss she could only work half-time so she could take care of her family ... her boss said ----- of course you can go half-time ... under one condition: I am paying you full-time!!

I've watched Peggy take care of her mom and dad "from a distance." On the phone ... a day-trip to Florida ... making sure they are ok. We finally laid her dad to rest on back of the church.

I think of Jesus ... who has taught us ----- there is no greater calling than to give one's life for another.

Yes ---- for EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON.

This, to be sure, is a season of uncertainty. And, yes, we are "torn."

On the one hand ... we need to be a bit selfish. We have to "hunker down" and take care of ourselves.

If we don't stay healthy ... we can't give unto others.

On the other hand ... there is so much "need" out there. We cannot stop giving.

Shannon is in need of a transplant and lots of support.

There is a 104-year-old veteran who want to get mail.

And you and me???? ----- Lord, please give us the strength to get through one more day.

Yesterday is a memory.

Today is the moment.

Tomorrow is a dream.

AND, IN MIDDLE OF ALL THIS ... WE ARE CALLED TO BE CARE-GIVERS.

Don Borling

All Saints Lutheran Church

13350 S. LaGrange Road Orland Park, IL 60462

October 11, 2020

www.allsaintsjoy.com allsaintsjoy@sbcglobal.net 708-448-2939