



REGION 1 HAMMER & DANCE

May 27, 2020

United for Ministry in the Days of COVID-19.

The Social Service Agencies
and Synods of Region 1.

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What have we learned from COVID-19?

Google this question and you will find people with a variety of expertise reflecting on it. Medical professionals speak about medical surge capacity. Home publications will suggest the kids all need to learn how to cook. Educational specialists wonder anew about the inequities in our American educational system - and everybody has thoughts about technology and how to wire in that half of the human population which has no access to broadband. You'll read a lot about leadership, too. What are the capacities we need in strong leaders? What kind of systems respond well, and which don't? When people flee to opposite extremes, how do leaders help hold the middle ground?

We are the Church. We are Social Service Agencies, witnesses to the love of God in Jesus Christ, Care Givers and Social Workers. We are a Community of diverse, but united people.

What have we learned from COVID-19?

"If one just holds on and does nothing, waiting for the pandemic to pass and things to return to normal, one will only come to realize that both the old norm and the new opportunities are gone in the end."

*-Heidi Zhang,
Chief Strategy Office of
Publicis Communications,
China*

["Here's What We Learned from COVID-19: China Ad and PR Leaders" - The Daily Jing](#)

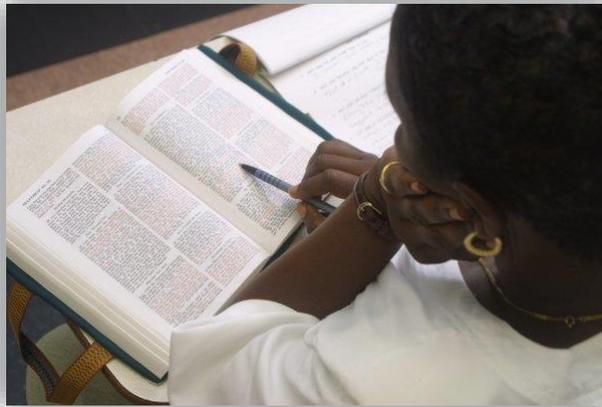
Lessons from COVID-19

Let's do a little journaling or scrapbooking together. What have we learned?
What have you learned, and what am we going to do with what has been revealed?

11 When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways.

12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.

13 And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love. *1 Corinthians 13:11-13 NRSV*



"When I was a child ..." Leadership matters! Good leadership offers calm, perspective, decisiveness, risk taking and trust. Good leadership is collaborative. Yet, 'the buck stops here.' Adults listen, weigh options, and then make the call.

"The mirror ..." When everything is in flux, as it seems to be now, I need to remember that my plans and ideas are temporary at best. It is okay not to know – but not knowing is no excuse for inaction. Listening is an action. Consulting is an action.

Reversing course can be an action. *And remember, communication is an action.*
Let those who look to our leadership hear and see what we are doing.
If the way forward is not clear say so. Those who accompany us want to help.

"Face to face ..." Facts Matter! Paul's point here in 1 Corinthians is not about data, but we do learn things as we go along. With COVID the facts are the facts, and the computer modelling is more or less certain, but we can tell the difference and choose accordingly.

And for people of faith, Promises are 'facts,' too. There is a direction. There is a face to be seen. There is a companion and an Advocate who walks with us.



"Knowing only in part ..." We can build upon what we know! Partial knowledge is different than fuzzy knowledge, as in "seeing in a mirror dimly." Fuzzy knowledge calls upon our Adaptive Leadership mojo. Partial knowledge gives us steppingstones towards more concrete action. What we've learned with COVID is that testing, tracing and

tracking are a way toward fuller social engagement. We can extend ourselves a little more, try, adjust, build new pathways. (Dave, you're hearing that pastors and LSS front line people need care. You're also noticing that lay leaders have energy and a desire to help. What does this imply? How will you choose to respond?)

"Being fully known ..." Social Isolation is Difficult! Back to what the Apostle Paul is actually saying. How do we take care of one another? Exercise Diet Job Family Human contact . Obviously, any of these things can be missing - and will be for many of us - but "being known," being understood, being connected and cared for. Isolation is difficult and we are learning how hard this is when this happens to all of us at once.

"Faith, hope and love ..." Stay on Mission! People need to stay on mission. Frankly, when the president of the United States tries to give medical advice it doesn't work so well. When the Church tries to tell the CDC that we're just fine singing and celebrating despite public health concerns people die. **"And the greatest of these is love!"** What COVID-19 has taught us is that our world needs those who understand love to demonstrate and share it.

What have I learned?

- My leadership matters
- I am called to be adaptive
- Facts matter
- I can build on what I know
- Social Isolation has a cost
- We have a calling

What will I do?

My goal as a consultant is to know what I am and am not responsible for. I am called to connect, collaborate, take action where I am called to and respect the calling of others where I am not. As a person of faith, it is important to stay rooted in the larger picture, in faith, hope and love. Note to self: Never dance alone!

Leadership in times of change.

What have you learned from COVID-19? That's the real question here. (Make your own list. Write it down.) What is the next step?

As leaders, we all have our own ways of collecting data, processing it, and making decisions. Many find that writing things by hand, generally in a journal or designated workbook, helps. Color, photos, news clips, feathers or bible passages ground and focus us. Engaging various senses in the gymnastics of our mind is vital. It makes us more effective leaders.

Whether it be prayer, poetry, conversation with a trusted friend, humming a favorite hymn or grounding yourself through a morning walk, do it. This is not just a matter of self-care. It is a matter of opening your whole self to the leadership of the Spirit.



Like all of us our Lutheran Social Service agencies have had to cancel and re-imagine fundraising events and campaigns. LCSNW is getting the word out about their services for children and families in Astoria / Clallam County via a multi-channel campaign.

LCSNW is building healthy relationships by:

- reuniting mothers and children
- facilitating family bonding
- teaching parenting skills
- finding and promoting support networks
- matching families to services effectively, and making sure they WORK

Join LCSNW May 30 at 6PM (PDT) for a livestream program and online auction. Learn more and RSVP today - [Click HERE](#)



Working from Home

"Through trial and error, I learned many lessons about how to work from home without losing my mind: put on real clothes in the morning, try not to do work in the same rooms you sleep or relax in, break up your day, set boundaries. I began to use the privilege of working from home to prioritize balance, not productivity. I often work out or run a few errands in the middle of the day — and use that missed hour or so in the evening to catch up on work that requires more focus when things are quiet. And when work does slow down, I try not to spin my wheels: I go for a walk, I play with my dogs. If something pops up at night, it doesn't feel as soul-crushing when you have not spent the day chained to the computer."

You Are Not Working From Home

How to make sure the rise in remote work doesn't mean the death of work-life balance.

By [Charlie Warzel](#)

FIESTA

◆ EN LA VINA ◆

Raise a glass in honor of our community's immigrant families.

