Beloved, these words are meant to cheer you and to give honor. As we praise our Lord, we must remember our commitment to God and to one another. Question: What does spiritual commitment mean? It’s a shared question for any Christian adult or teenager who already feels beleaguered by school, work obligation, feeling pulled by needs of the family and the owed monthly bills. It’s understandable how perplexing that question can be now in 2020 with corona virus19 and unemployment. Some of us remain sheltered and all of us to some extent feel a little handicapped now. Hopefully you wear a mask. But in this we count the cost of being (or becoming) a disciple of Christ. By faith, we believe in the coming of Our Lord Jesus. We have seen His marvelous work in our lives and we understand we walk by faith and not by sight. Hasn’t Jesus brought us through this far and isn’t Eternity forever? Do you trust God for your increase? Are God’s Words true? Hasn’t God pulled us all back to Him by His marvelous love and gentle, loving spirit in times of overwhelming Life?

God certainly has. We are indebted to Our Heavenly Father who created all things. Everything we have, our very breath and our vitality, come from our Creator. Today we hear the birds singing in the treetops. This fine morning’s song is unknown to our minds. Why were the birds even singing? The Bible says let everything that has breath praise the Lord. “Don’t they know it’s the end of the world?” Skeeter Davis sang these words sixty years ago? Haven’t the birds heard about this virus plague? Aren’t they concerned and stressed about possible food shortages, the political scene in Washington D.C.? “Oh my; oh my; whatever will happen to me and my little chicks?“ the mother bird does not say in her song. King David our hero says the bird does not worry about her next meal for her and her chicks. She trusts God for all things because she neither toils nor spins as a bird of the air. Like the lilies, she knows who holds tomorrow--Father God. So why should we needlessly worry or complain?

Eighty-five times the Bible advises us to “fret not.” If we know God is in charge and as all our currency says: “In God We Trust”, isn’t that enough for us to rely on? Our Pastor is truly bless’ed and blessing us at Bethany Lutheran Ministries with good sermons (Gobethany.com. on YouTube), so perhaps we don’t feel the back-lash of anxiety as much as others—thank you Sir, to Pastor Phillip! 8 Prayers go up to heaven from us in Vacaville, Dixon, Fairfield, Suisun, Vallejo, Winters and Woodland to the Throne of Mercy in heaven; and the return answered prayers come down to your friends, relatives and co-workers. As someone said: “Prayer changes things—if we are faithful.” Jesus reminded the disciples, “if you are faithful in a few matters, I will make you master over many.” That is a wonderful concept to include in your precious promises we rely on in our daily devotions.
Is it possible we can do more to the work of the ministry of the Gospel? We can consult God and ask Him: “How can I be more fulfilled in kingdom work?” It isn’t enough to do natural things: tithing, singing hymns, witnessing about your faith daily. Yes, these are important to help sustain faith in these confusing days in which we live. An answer is to seek God’s will in your life. When pressed to respond how we can be used in the ministry, we may ask how it impacts our family time; how will it fit our family budget; and are we equipped to serve in some specific capacity in which we have never served before? Sometimes a change of work is as good as a rest. Our church has a Commitment Sunday and so it is vital to review your Covenant with your Savior and His church. What talents can you bring into action?

With God’s help, you can raise your hand willing to do supernatural work. That may be unfamiliar territory. Some of us are content to just occupy a seat in the pew on Sundays, content to fall back on our history of serving the church when we were younger and consumed with that First Love of our Savior. What about today? Shall we rest on our laurels and leave it to our fellow members to carry the workload for Christ? We’re told that 80 % of church duties are done by 20 % of the congregation. Surely that fact should be a wake-up call. Are you in the pleasant joyful 20 %? Remember that to-day is all we are promised. We cannot reach backward and change our past; neither can we reach into the future. Only what we do for the Master now, to-day will count throughout eternity.

Walt Disney was all about the future. He even coined a phrase called ‘be an Imaginer’ (like a thoughtful engineer who envisions possibilities). Maybe we don’t have that ability to have a vision? But our Pastor does and if you consult with him he will share your part in that future. What we all have though, is a Savior who went to Calvary for our sins and shed His blood and gave His body for our Salvation. Jesus paid the awful price for redemption of our sinful souls. Whatever you can do to move the Gospel forward can be a wonderful thing. Can you write letters to encourage convalescents and shut-ins, or join in with the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League? Can you give more time to prayer for all the saints of God who carry the workload of our church? Be as little Samuel in the temple who said: “Here am I, Lord, your servant?” So shall we do, for now is the hour and the need is great.