

The Week of the Second Sunday after Pentecost, Sunday, June 19, 2022

Scripture: II Corinthians 4:8-12

One source of personal reflection and guidance for me is II Corinthians 4:8-12.

“We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.”

This Biblical passage references the challenges to which we all face on a day-to-day basis, while at the same time underscoring the presence of God through the death of Jesus as the source of our inspiration to overcome those daily challenges.

The message conveyed here is particularly pertinent to St. Paul's relationship with the Mpuguso Lutheran Church and the wonderful example which our Christian sisters and brothers with the Mpuguso congregation have provided us. Despite the seemingly overwhelming obstacles faced by Mpuguso families, your spirit and your faith enable you to proceed with grace and confidence in dealing with whatever challenges you may face on a day-to-day basis. Asante Sana (Thank you) to the Mpuguso congregation for providing St. Paul's with such a visible example of Jesus' spirit and the will of the Lord. May the Lord continue to bless the twenty-six-year companionship relationship between the Mpuguso Lutheran Church and St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, you came into the world as one of us, and suffered as we do. As we go through the trials of life, help us to realize that you are with us at all times and in all things; that you strengthen us and keep us safe in your loving embrace; and you will bring us to newness life through your death and resurrection, in your name we pray. Amen.

Joe Moyer, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, York