Our ability to communicate with one another has become so convenient through the airwaves, far and beyond radio and Television frequencies.

The internet opened doors via computers, tablets, and cell phones...with breaking news, a wealth of information and social media to name just three.

Hard to believe-that Less than 30 years ago the World Wide Web went public.

To say that the digital revolution has changed our world is an understatement and perhaps the greatest breakthrough ever!

It is amazing.... Both exciting and frightening at the same time. This digital era has made us feel intelligent, even superior while simultaneously causing us pain .

There are many positives to this digital convenience but does the good outweigh the bad?

Just this weekend I learned in a less than 24 hours two things about technology I did not know.

One of them is Computer generated imagery or CGI ...which was explained me by a 13 year old as she looked it up on her phone just to verify.

CGI is a new way to make movies like the new Lion King...The animals look real but evidently they are not.

In an article entitled True Value of Technology [Eric Sheninger](https://www.huffpost.com/author/eric-sheninger), wrote, “Technology can engage, connect, [and] empower,

[Technology can] enhance teaching, bring into our living rooms...Online schools, meetings, conferences, even jobs can be performed without leaving home.

Technology can bring us closer to one another though we may be miles apart...One of our members Carol Gingrich joined our church through FaceTime because due to medical reasons' cannot leave her home.

She enjoys our services via FT especially Christmas Eve when I set my phone in the window so that she can join us.

Craig and I have been able to watch … grandchildren, nieces, nephews and their kids grow up, a thousand miles away.

Families can live continents away and still feel close to one another. We stay connected and also reconnect with long lost relatives and childhood friends.

Deanna Thompson “was convinced all these new digital tools were having negative effects on our ability to relate **meaningfully to one another**.”

....“Until she got sick. Really sick. In the February magazine, Living Lutheran… (My take: The ethics of a digital world…Theologian reflects on living together in the digital age February 6, 2020”)

she explains that she was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer.

In a matter of months, she went from a healthy and active wife, mother and professor to an oncology patient with a broken back and a lousy prognosis.

On the day she was diagnosed, her brother set up a page on the social networking website CaringBridge to keep her friends and family updated on her prognosis.

If she hadn’t been on so much pain medication, she [said] may not have let him set up such a site, skeptical as she was about digital technology’s ability to foster meaningful connections.”

 But it resulted in the greatest support and love she has ever experienced and will be a comfort as she fights this unbeatable battle.

We may all have family and friends whose lives have been touched by of CaringBridge, GoFundMe and countless other ways of communication

Bill Calhoon and I have a friend Heather Buffington whose husband Dave underwent a 12 hour surgery last Thursday which required 4 surgeons to remove the cancerous tumor that had wrapped itself around some of his organs.

She communicated through email via phone from the hospital giving frequent updates.

Giving us the chance to pray specifically and continually. He is still in an induced coma .... and still doctors can only offer guarded prognosis.

We have the capability of sending prayers through the airwaves, or ecards, attaching little heart emojis...donating money all with the intention of showing our love and concern...for one another.

Through Social Media Trinity shares our events on the church Facebook page – with details of what, when and where.

We can give pertinent information while engaging the public. As a church we offer devotions, Wednesday pick me ups, and share the Tidings newsletter and promote other social mediums like our website.

For a few dollars we can expand our Facebook coverage and invite people to many of our events including worship.

When people share our Facebook page it goes out to an even wider audience and is a lot less expensive than a newspaper ad.

If we have a question about anything or need to quickly touch base with our coworker, friend or family we can just let our fingers do the walking.

Yet even with all of these devices at our disposal we still manage to miscommunicate.

And what does all this have to do with today’s message?

Moses spoke about life and prosperity... death and adversity.

Though we may feel we are living in great prosperity...at what cost!?.

We can come closer to one another digitally... but have we distanced ourselves from God?

Moses reminds us that

“16If we ...love God, walk in his ways, and observe his commandments,... then we shall live and ...God will bless us--

17But if our heart turns away and we do not hear, if we are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them,...well... you know the rest of that story.

Moses told the people to **choose God, choose life, choose to love.**

The Psalmist sings, 1Happy are they whose way is blameless,  
  who follow the teaching of the Lord!   
 2**Happy are they who....**  
  **seek God with all their hearts,**  
 3who never do any wrong,  
  but always walk in God’s ways

Paul writes,

only God gives growth –when we work together with one common purpose...serving God.

We are the body of Christ...a community of people who bear one another’s burdens by paying attention to others and especially to those who suffer. ...not those who cause us anguish or disdain.

Our responsibility is to discern how we can use our technology to better our lives and the world in which we live.

We must examine the tools at our disposal and decide how to best enhance the message of the Good News.

Share that, offer scripture and prayer and invitation to worship God...especially here in this sacred place.

We are to enhance the means in which we communicate...which Jesus did

Jesus said... He didn’t’ come to abolish the law but to enhance it.

Today He adds “**if you** are angry with a brother or sister, **if you** them, and **if you** say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire.”

Wow! If only calling each other fools was the worst thing we did.

I believe that with the printing press, and now the internet, and airwaves of communication we hurt each a whole lot more…

sometimes in the heat of the moment, sometimes with a heart full of scorn.

I believe that with all these avenues the age old problem has been magnified 1000times. ...and will only continue unless we take responsibility!!!

When Jesus gave us the two greatest commandments You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself…Jesus was enhancing the commandments.

In other words, you can’t possibly love God with all your heart or your neighbor unless you follow all 613 commandments to the tee.

Yes 613 commandments...I was going print them out but there were 30 pages.

Jesus is not giving us new and improved commandments. Jesus is giving us more detail and unpacking the original...

**Joy Moore writes in workingpreacher.og**

It is not enough to be a follower of Jesus in the way that we would follow someone’s Twitter posts.

Jesus calls for his disciples to live with integrity and live dependent on each other.

Live in...trustworthiness, and commitment to all relationships.

.... treat those around you friend or foe, familiar or stranger...with the same honesty, respect, and authenticity.

Though multitasking while using a phone can be deadly...the ability to

coordinate and navigate or solicit help... can enhance our livelihood and those all around us.

How do we maximize the tools we have at our disposal?

Lord of mercy and light, God of power and might. Holy are you Lord.

We need to pray for Gods intervention and for His peace knowing we can trust in a his faithful word.

Give peace O God, give peace again. Amen