

March 27, 2020 Update
Hello Family of Believers,

Government can make us social distance for a time, but in Jesus, death cannot make us social distance forever. Spoiler alert – community wins!

⁹ After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.” *Revelation 7:9-10*

Our staff encourages you to remember that as we now plan for the next two weeks under the new Executive Order – “Stay at Home.” At this point this is in effect until April 10 (Good Friday) but this may change. A few changes that this has brought on.

Church Office is considered closed and building is locked: At this time, to maintain our exemption for our essential staff to be able to use the building to still provide care, take care of daily operations, and prepare for livestream, we must lock the doors to all other traffic. Please know that we are still an email and phone call away. If you need us, let us know. In an emergency, a pastor will still come!

Church Staff: In many ways church staff is working harder than ever to adapt with these rapidly changing times and continue to provide care and worship opportunities in a new way.

Phones: Please call if you need something or have a question. The office is still operating, and staff will still be in completing our essential tasks. If no one answers, please leave a voicemail. This will be checked multiple times a day even if we are not in.

Communion in Parking Lot: We will need to suspend this practice until the “Stay at Home” Executive order ends. Watch for more information.

Offering: This means we can no longer, for the next two weeks, allow people into the building to drop off their offerings. You can put your offering in the mail slot if you are out and about for essential tasks, mail it to the church, use Joyful Response, or soon – use our new online giving options. Pay attention to the church website www.redeemer-lutheran.com and the tap “Tithes and Offering Update” for information for online giving.

Online Worship: We are continuing to improve tech on our end. On Sunday morning more are livestreaming worship than ever before. If you have problems with lags, drop outs, or loading....come back later! Hard line in with an ethernet cord if that works for you. If your internet has a problem keeping up with service and comments, you can hide the comments so it is only loading the service.

Give a High Five: We are encouraging everyone to give a high five EACH WEEK. Some can do it each day. A High Five is simple. Call five people each week to check in, connect, care, encourage, and pray! Who will you High Five this week?

Holy Week: I saved this one for last so I can share some scripture encouragement right after. Holy week will look different this year than at any other time in my lifetime and in yours! We will not be able to gather for Holy Week services. My heart hurts because of this but we will still provide a Christ-Centered, Gospel-focused, quality service for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter it will just be online. The first day we gather back together we will have one HUGE and awesome Easter Celebration!

With that said, remember where we started. We are Easter people! In all times and in all places we know and celebrate that “Jesus is Risen and we shall arise – Give God the Glory Alleluia!” A day is wonderful to celebrate this but every day is a celebration of this. The day doesn’t make this true – Jesus’ death and resurrection make this true! Social distancing doesn’t stop us being Easter people with Easter Hope. Good Friday is God coming so close to us that He took on our greatest disease of sin and death so He could defeat it and that doesn’t change!

Passages from 1 Corinthians 15

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance^[a]: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures

²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

⁵¹ Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— ⁵² in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”^[b]

⁵⁵ “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”^[c]

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵⁸ Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

We are praying for you and we are thankful for all your prayers as well!

Pastor Koglin, Pastor Loos, April Beckman, Michael Harvey, Josh Heirigs, and Chris Tjosaas