



Family of Believers

HEBREWS 12:1-3 **Eyes ON Jesus**

Hello Redeemer Family,

God had an awesome plan when He gave us our theme for this year. We went back and forth on themes as a staff and Pastor Koglin wrote – “Eyes on Jesus” as a joke. Well that joke was a God Sighting and we can think of no greater theme or verse for us as we try to navigate the uncharted waters of this global pandemic then this:

And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. *Hebrews 12:1-2*

As was said in last week’s sermon – “My savior is in charge and that is good enough for me!”

This letter is again being sent with heavy hearts but hopeful hearts. As we honor the medical data, while asking what is best for our Family of Believers, Staff, and Community, the answer is to continue to take things slow and reopen in small steps. On top of the medical data is the logistics. The logistics of opening a church our size, with our activity level, in the current building we have is challenging in light of all the regulations. Regulations that limit us to 25% of our capacity during worship (10 or less for other activities), require social distancing, no mixing before and after service, call into question the ability to sing, strongly encourage all at risk categories to stay home and require the use of masks, all show that the time we meet together will challenge all of our expectations. If you would like to hear more about this, especially the medical side, please check out the May 28th Ministry Update on our website. If you cannot view online and would like to hear – please call the church office (289-5147) and we would love to send you a recording!

During this time, we have learned to assemble in new ways. The staff at Redeemer has been working hard to adapt, innovate, and keep up with this rapid learning curve; so that even though the ways have changed, the core of who we are has not. We are a Family of Believers keeping our eyes on Jesus! We are a Family of Believers who grow in Christ, Share His Love, Encourage others. Our livestream will never replace in-person worship but has been a wonderful blessing to keep us connected as a family. For those that cannot do the technology (and we are aware of) we have a calling tree calling once a week. Plus, we are now starting to slowly add communion! Our Sunday School teachers worked hard to move to an online platform. Our music ministry adapted to still provide choirs and musical groups even when we cannot gather. Our readers kept leading us in Scripture in our homes. And so many of you have continued to take Pastor Koglin’s cowboy hat seriously and make many and many High Fives! This only scratches the surface!

As we continue to adapt and best care for our Family of Believers and community during this global pandemic here is the update from our Transition Team that we want to share.

(over)

Team Members: Bill Cochran, Grant Wilson, Connie Scheid, Ric Thieke, Lowell Dale, Tim Kanne, Aaron Peter, Michael Harvey, Delores McGillivray, Pastor Adam Koglin

Goal: Reopen Redeemer Lutheran Church for the Sacraments, Worship, Bible Study and ministry in a way that will provide a safe and healthy environment that best meets the needs of our staff, our Family of Believers, and our community.

May 26th Motion: Live Streaming will be Redeemer's worship format for the remainder of May and through at least June as the Transition Team works through the many complex requirements of reopening our Church. Made by Lowell Dale - Seconded by Grant Wilson - Passed Unanimously.

Stay Informed: Weekly Ministry Updates will be sent out through Redeemer's email blast. If you are not receiving those, please call the church office 289-5147. These updates will also be posted on our website under the tab "Ministry Update."

Provide Feedback: On May 28th in our weekly email blast a survey went out. This survey is a chance for our staff and our Transition Team to take a pulse at how our Family of Believers feels about opening, mitigation strategies, and spiritual care. This will also go out in a letter to everyone the first week of June.

Attached to this letter is the survey. If you can fill it out online, that is best. Please go to our website and click the link "Family of Believers: COVID-19 Survey" under Ministry Updates. If you are not able to complete it online, please mail the hard copy to the church office by June 6th. To best care for you, we want to hear from you! Thanks for taking the time.

We are in a time of tension. Different churches and different leaders may approach this differently. As we continue to move forward, those differences will be apparent and, since we are connected online, we will all see them. Our leadership will never publicly call into question the intentions or integrity of another leader and we ask you to do the same. We are in this together. In times of tension, Satan wants to divide. In times of tension, Jesus wants us to unite and rally together. Let us rally together in this time of tension as a Family of Believers with our Eyes on Jesus. Let us be quick to listen and slow to speak. Let us choose love over rights. Let us encourage and not tear down. Let us be prayer warriors and not keyboard warriors. Let us deal in facts and not gossip. We are confident that we have the right people with servant hearts, a love for this church, and the humility to prayerfully take one step at a time trusting the path and journey to Jesus. We will be even stronger on the other side of this!

To end we will end with the two Scripture Passages that are the foundation for our Transition Team!

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. *Colossians 3:12-14*

³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. *Philippians 2:3-4*

God's Blessings

Pastor Koglin, Pastor Loos, Michael Harvey, Chris Tjosaas, Randy Kautz, April Beckman, Josh Heirigs, Bill Cochran, Grant Wilson, Connie Scheid, Ric Thieke, Lowell Dale, Tim Kanne, Aaron Peter, and Delores McGillivray