

Dear Church Family,

We find ourselves in new and troubling waters. I believe we are called to ask ourselves “how do I avoid spreading this”. It is clear that staying away from others is an act of love and service towards others. Our first step was to cancel worship for Sundays March 22 and 29, Wednesdays 18 and 25 and Thursdays March 19 and 26 as well as other classes and gatherings. It would seem that what we know about this pandemic changes from day to day. We would like to offer you a plan as to how Our Redeemer’s Lutheran may respond.

## Communication

Because we know that things are changing rapidly our plans may change as well. We plan to keep our communication with you as current as possible. We will utilize constant contact, (emails) Enews, and Facebook as well as mailings. **If you do not have access to the internet please call the office to let us know.** We hope to only send mail to those who cannot access our communications online. **If you are not getting emails from the church, please check your junk mail file.**

## Worship

We will be preparing video worship materials for you to use at home on Sundays. These will include, readings, sermon and prayers. Hard copies will also be available.

There is a probability that we will not be able to resume worship until sometime in April. If so, our hope would be to celebrate Passion/Palm Sunday, Holy Week special services, and Easter when we are able *-even if it does not occur on the calendar specified dates.*

Our hope is to resume worship by Palm Sunday. If so, we still need volunteers to assist in the following ways;

Maundy Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup> - 2 individuals to act as ushers/greeters

Good Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> noon service - 2 individuals to act as ushers/greeters

Good Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM service - 1 lector and 2 individuals to act as ushers/greeters

Easter Sunrise Worship, April 12<sup>th</sup> 7:00 AM - 2 individuals to act as ushers/greeters & also communion OR 2 additional communion servers

Easter Traditional Worship, April 12<sup>th</sup> 8:30 AM - 5 communion servers

Easter Rejoice Worship, April 12<sup>th</sup> 11:00 AM - 1 lector, 2 greeter/ushers (and ideally one more helping folks find open seats), 4 communion servers

## Ministry Needs

During this time, it will be necessary for all of us to remember our regular offerings. Our plan is to continue to do the ministry we are called to be about. Our offerings make that possible. It may be a good time for you to consider electronic giving.

As Christians we are called to love and serve our neighbor. During this time of uncertainty many of these ministries which support our neighbors are affected. At Our Redeemers Lutheran Church, we hope to continue to support our neighbors through these ministries. Here are some ways you can make an impact! You can drop all of these items off at the church office.

- **Preschool Silent Auction Baskets** – The Preschool will be extending the timeline for the basket silent auction for the time being and will be looking at an online forum to do so through the website. Look for this in the coming week.
- **Lutheran World Relief** – We collect items for kits to help our neighbors in times of disasters and great need. Items needed are:
  - **Personal Care Kits** – lightweight bath towels, bars of soap, toothbrushes, nail clippers, and combs.
  - **Baby Kits** – blankets, cloth diapers, bars of soap, socks, diaper pins, light weight cotton t-shirts, baby sleepers (without feet), jacket or sweater, and hand towels.
- **Kid Packs** – Throughout this time kids will continue to need and receive supplementary meals on weekends from Helena Food Share. We are currently collecting oatmeal but will also accept donations of individual fruit cups, granola bars, juice boxes, and individual packets of easy mac.
- **Treats for Montana Troops** – In support of our service men and women we are collecting granola/protein bars, hard candy, jerky, dried fruit, gum, individual drink mixes, single serving tuna packs, snack size packs of cookies or crackers, wet wipes, Ziploc (freezer or quart size), and monetary donations for postage.

## Homebound Concerns

We are reaching out to our members who have limited mobility or are part of especially vulnerable populations throughout this time. If you are aware of any special needs that the pastoral staff should be addressing, please let us know.

## How can I help?

Keep an eye on our social media and email announcements. There will be opportunities for us to serve our community in the days ahead. (If you are not seeing announcements check your spam/junk inbox.)

## Office Hours

Our office hours will be Monday through Thursday from 8:00-4:00. Lori and Sarah will be working remotely on Fridays.

Pastor Bergland will be at the church on Sunday mornings to be available to those who have not heard about the changes in the worship schedule.

While we are apart we are still one in Christ. God's peace as we weather this storm together.

Pastor Arne Bergland