

March 28, 2020

Faith Friends,

We now have a “shelter in place” order by the State of Minnesota, so a few things noted in our last letter have changed, as have many things in our community. What has *not* changed is that we are still a strong faith community, and that we are still able to *be the church!* At the direction of our governor, we will be “shelter in place” until at least April 10th. At the direction of our United Methodist Bishop, we are not to return to holding “in-person” worship services until at least May 10th and while this poses challenges for each of us in many ways, we will continue to do all we can to help as many people as we can to *grow in faith* and to *be the church* in our community and world. *I am the church, you are the church, we are the church, together!* We are still about the business of *doing no harm, doing good, and staying in love with God.* 3 Simple Rules for us to lean on as wisdom right now.

What you can do:

- **Read your Bible** and/or read a daily devotional—in a book or online.
- **Pray.** Pray without ceasing; pray anytime; and remember we’re all invited to pray together at the same time (10:10am/pm) everyday. Many have said they are doing this. Call the church office line (forwarded to either Donette or Pastor Karen most of the time now) if you have a specific prayer request or need. (651) 460-6110
- **Communicate with others.** Call or write a letter/card to someone—a friend, neighbor, family member, a “helper” in the community, a volunteer, or someone else.
- **Worship.** Every Sunday at 9:30am and every Wednesday at approximately 6:45pm, there is a worship service that will be “live” on Facebook, and then will be posted to our Faith YouTube channel. If you are unable to access either of these videos or the music online, please call us at 651-460-6110 and we will do our best to send the printed worship outline and message to you in the mail. We won’t assume you need or want this, so please do let us know. We’re doing our best to find ways to connect.
- **Volunteer** to help or serve with Loaves and Fishes meal or grocery distributions as *you’re able*. We’re not all able to do this, and it is completely understandable and expected that we will all do our best to keep ourselves and others healthy and well.
- **Expect** God to be present and move in wonderful and miraculous ways right now! Ask God to move in and through you—the Holy Spirit is ready and waiting.
- **Give** financial support to Faith Church as you are able. We continue to work as staff and clergy (though we need to do most of this from home); we continue to reach out in ministry in our community; and we continue to have bills to pay for our building. You can help us continue the ministries we provide through Faith Church both now and into the future beyond the pandemic by giving what you can. We are grateful!

Faith Notes:

Loaves and Fishes: Under the “shelter in place” order, the provision of food and meals is considered “essential” and so Faith Church is still working with the Loaves and Fishes organization to provide nutritious meals on Wednesday evenings from 5:30-6:30pm (**no** on-site seating). These meals are prepared by Scott Evenson, who is a Serv-safe certified chef, and they are all made “to go.” Simply drive up to the church, and a meal is brought to your vehicle. *If you need a meal (or meals) delivered to you, call (651) 460-6110 on Wednesdays.* There are community members willing and able to drive meals/groceries to you each week and efforts are made to keep everyone safe.

Faith is Growing We are still a *growing* church! Just last week, a volunteer who has been helping with Loaves and Fishes and the grocery distribution said to me, “I’ve been looking for a long time to find a church, and now I know *I’ve found one.*” She’s attending now (by online worship), she’s giving to Faith, she’s growing in faith, and she’s serving with Faith in more than one way. We are able to reach out, share our faith, invite people to be part of Faith Church, always! Who can you invite to Faith? Maybe this is the right time to invite a friend, neighbor, or family member to take part online! They can find out about Faith on our website at www.faithinyourheart.org

Faith Office is “open” via telephone and email. Donette is working from home and phone calls and messages are forwarded to her and to me at home. *We are* checking the church mailbox and are receiving letters, bills, giving, and other mail that way still.

Building Update: The painting is now complete in the planned areas, and flooring in the reception room, library, and sanctuary were installed during these past few weeks. It’ll be ready for you to see when we are able to worship in the building together again! The stained glass windows on the west side of the building are being renewed, too!

Palm Sunday and Easter worship services will definitely be different this year. Though we may need to delay our “in-person” celebration of resurrection, I encourage each of us to continue to walk with Jesus, and to look for signs of resurrection in our lives. *What is this “wilderness” experience like for you? What have been your challenges? Where are you seeing or experiencing signs of Jesus’ life and resurrection? Where are you seeing the ways God is alive in this world? How are you walking with Jesus through the Holy Week? (See attached for Holy Week guidance and information)*

Please call and tell me about it! Send me a card or letter to describe it! Draw pictures! Post photos online, if you do that—share on our Faith facebook page! As Christians, we know that resurrection isn’t just a *possibility*, but that *every day* we can experience the resurrection through a relationship with Jesus Christ!

Every morning is Easter morning, from now on!

In grace, peace and love,

Pastor Karen



Holy Week with Faith

Each of this year's Holy Week "services" is available either online or can be mailed to you in print, so you can experience them in the ways possible for you at this time. *Please call the church office, if you need the order of worship and message sent to you in the mail, and please include your mailing address, just in case. (651) 460-6110*

Sunday, April 4th

Palm Sunday

9:30am on Facebook Live (on YouTube about 11am)

Color your "palm" branch to wave at home during worship (*attached*)

Wednesday, April 8th

("to go" supper served by Loaves and Fishes 5:30-6:30pm by pick up or delivery)

Wednesday Worship on Facebook Live at 6:45pm (or on YouTube around 7:30pm)

Thursday, April 9th 7am-7pm

Maundy Thursday

Prayer vigil all day (*at home*).

Spend quiet time in prayer throughout the day.

(Scriptures and prayers for home worship and prayers attached)

Communion blessed & served "virtually" (*by Bishop's permission*) at 7am, 10am, 7pm on Facebook Live and posted on YouTube at 7:30am.

(Instructions attached, so you may utilize your own bread and juice at home)

April 10th at 12noon

Good Friday Worship

(ecumenical *online* worship experience via Farmington Lutheran Church social media)

April 10th at 6:30 and 7pm

Good Friday Worship

on Facebook Live at 6:30pm (on YouTube around 7pm)

(Scriptures and prayers for home worship attached)

Easter Sunday--April 12th

Worship and Celebration of Resurrection!**

9:30am on Facebook Live (on YouTube about 11am)

Every morning is Easter morning...from now on!!

(Scriptures and prayers for home worship will be sent out before Easter)

****Easter flowers that have been ordered, may be picked up by you (or delivered to you) on Saturday, April 11th between 12noon and 2pm**

Let us know by calling 651-460-6110 or email churchoffice.faithumc@gmail.com