



Ascension Ev. Lutheran Church

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Dear Member(s) of Ascension,

Our Savior Jesus is *still* in control of all things and is *still* ruling the universe! With this truth in our hearts and minds, may each of us continue to rely on His power and His powerful Word of life and promise of salvation!

As we continue to work our way through this time of uncertainty due to the COVID-19 pandemic, let me say again, as I stated in my letter to you last week: there is *NO* uncertainty about who our Savior is, what He has done for us, and what He continues to do for us, even in chaotic conditions (see Psalm 22:28; Psalm 66:5-7; and especially Eph. 1:18-23)! Our almighty Lord and Savior is still ruling and reigning on His throne! Of that you can still be certain, and can still rest assured of His love for you and His care for you!

I want to keep you up-to-date about our plans for the coming weeks—for our worship services, getting together, and other concerns we all have due to the corona-virus thing. Our Governor has further called on schools and most businesses to continue limiting gatherings to no more than 10 people, or to shut down completely. Thus, it seems to make sense for us to once again suspend our Sunday and midweek worship services for this Sunday (March 29) and next week's midweek Lenten service (April 1). We will again wait until the middle of next week to determine what to do for Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Easter Sunday, and beyond.

As this is an unprecedented time and experience for all of us, I just want to say it again, as I did in last week's letter to you: if you need anything (basic supplies, groceries, etc.), and don't want to leave your house, please do not hesitate to contact me. I'll do whatever I can to help in whatever way I can! And, as you have opportunity, reach out to your neighbors and friends out of love for your Savior! *"Let your Light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven"* (Matthew 5:16)! This may very well be your chance to *"give [them] the reason for the hope that you have"* (1 Peter 3:15) in your Savior! Share those Easter cards I gave you, for whenever we will get to celebrate our Lord's resurrection and the sure hope it gives us! There are plenty of those "love-for-Jesus" actions you can do for your neighbor! Let me know what you are doing in that regard! I'd love to share them with the rest of our two congregations! Just be sure to do them with all caution and care so as not to spread the virus!

As I mentioned last time also, there are a lot of reliable ways to hear God's Word over the Internet. You can go to our website (www.ascensionlutheran-mitchell.com) for current, recent, and past Sunday Scripture readings and sermons, all the way back to last year. Bethel, Sioux Falls, has their sermons from past Sundays available to listen to (<http://www.youtube.com/c/bethelwels>). Our Savior, Brookings, puts their whole Sunday worship service online (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOsdAl6p9MOoqu7IDFhoBaQ>). Good Shepherd, Sioux Falls, has their sermons online also (<https://gswels.org/church/sermons/>). I can also make a CD of any worship service we have here at Ascension for up to a year ago, so you can listen at home or in the car. Just let me know what I can do for you—I'd be happy to help!

I have also included a short Bible study sheet for you this time, as I had mentioned last week. Take a look at it and let me know what you think, if you've used it, if you'd like another one next week (or sooner)! I've also included a copy of the bulletin insert we had a couple of years ago, for the 500th anniversary year of Reformation Day (1517 – 2017) on the First Article of the **Apostles Creed**. There are a few more on the 1st Article that I'd like to send to you in the coming weeks as well, as a good, positive reminder to each of us about Who's in control here, now and always! Please take the time to look it over and study it carefully!

I also suggested to you last week to start reading a chapter a day from the Gospel of Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John. Read the articles in your issue of the *Forward in Christ* magazine. Read your *Meditations* booklet each day (let me know if you need one— I'll get you one from church, or mail one to you!). Did you know our Synod also has a daily email devotion that you can sign up for? Just go to the WELS website (<https://wels.net/>), find the “*Serving You*” button at the top (3rd one from the left), and a menu slides down with “*Topical Q&A*”, “*Devotions*”, “*Christian Life*”, “*Through My Bible*”, and “*Prayers*” as options (left to right) to further click on— all of which are well-worth your while searching through and using! Check it all out! You can sign up there for those daily devotions, daily Bible reading portions, and a bunch of other things for you to use— not just now during the virus thing, but afterward, too!

Did I mention yet: please make sure I have your email address so I can keep you informed and up-to-date on what's happening during this crazy time?! Just “shoot me an email” at ascension@santel.net. That way I'll be sure to have it correct! Thanks so much! If there's anything else I can do for you, please let me know!

As always, you are in my thoughts and prayers, especially in these trying times. Continue to stay healthy and safe— physically and spiritually, with the strength that our Savior provides.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Pastor David D. Reichel
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