



Ascension Ev. Lutheran Church

521 West 23rd Avenue
Mitchell, SD. 57301

Pastor David D. Reichel

dreichel@mitchelltelecom.net 605-996-9123



April 3, 2020

Dear Member(s) of Ascension,

I will remind you again: our Savior Jesus *is still* in control and ruling over all things! Keep that truth in your heart and mind, as we rely on His power to heal and His promise of eternal life and salvation! My prayer for all of you continues to be that He would guard and keep you safe and in His protecting care as this pandemic progresses, confident in what our Savior Jesus came into this sin-filled and cursed world to do, as we are about to enter into the most important, most sacred time of all human history: Holy Week! May we also join those first Palm Sunday parade-goers in our “*Hosannas to the Son of David!*”

I am sending you a copy of the Scripture readings and sermon for this Palm Sunday, along with a familiar Palm Sunday hymn, and a prayer for Palm Sunday—to use at home this Sunday, April 5. It is certainly disappointing that we won’t be able to come together in church for this special day; even more disappointing to know that we will also have to miss next Sunday, Easter—Jesus’ resurrection from the dead! I’m already working on writing the sermons and services for Maundy Thursday (Jesus institutes His Holy Supper); Good Friday (His crucifixion); and Easter, all of which I will send out to you in the mail next week. I hope and pray that you will be able to read them on (or near) each of those special days, knowing that your fellow members will be doing the same. Perhaps when this “social distancing” thing is over, we can celebrate Easter *together* as our first worship service back in church! How does that sound?! What a celebration that will be!

I am including another Bible study sheet for you today. This one is part of a series of studies from Northwestern Publishing House (NPH) entitled “*19 Minute Bible Study: Very Important Chapters.*” See if you can figure out why I’m including *this* particular one at *this* time...! Again: let me know what you think of it; if you used it; and if you’d like another one next week! I’m also including the next in that series of bulletin inserts we had in 2017 for the 500th anniversary of Reformation Day, on the First Article of the **Apostles Creed**—another good reminder of Who’s in control, now and always! Please take the time to read and study each of them carefully!

I don’t know if you’ve thought about this, but since we’ve been unable to come together at church for our usual worship services, we also haven’t been able to give our offerings to the Lord in support of the work of our church. I’d like to encourage *you* to do what the apostle Paul called on the believers in Corinth to do: “*On the first day of every week, each of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. Then, when I arrive, I will ... send ... your gift to Jerusalem*” (1Corinthians 16:2-3). How’s about you continue to put aside your usual weekly offering, whatever you would normally give to church, but keep it in a *safe* place at home, until we’re able to come back together for our first worship service *after* COVID-19?! If that doesn’t work for you, you can either mail your offering to church (but only in check form, *NOT* cash!), or drop it off at church during the week (call me beforehand, so I can let you into church!). Some of you have been doing either one of those already; others might not be sure what to do. If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to call me (996-9123 at the office; or 999-3046 on the cellie)!

I'm also trying to update our church's website, so you can get information, updates, my latest sermons and Scripture readings, and other such stuff via the internet. If there's anything else *you* can think of that I can put on the website that would be helpful to you and to others, please let me know! You may think of something that I haven't, so let me know! Thanks! And also, just in general: if there's anything else I can do for you, please let me know!

Another *big* thing that we are not able to do together because of this virus thing is come to the Lord's Supper. If you would like to take the Lord's Supper privately, we can make arrangements to do that—either here at church, or in your home. Just give me a call to make those arrangements.

As always, you continue to be in my thoughts and prayers, especially in these trying times. Do all you can to continue to stay healthy and safe—physically *and* spiritually, with the strength that your Savior Jesus provides!

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Pastor David D. Reichel
Ascension Ev. Lutheran Church
Mitchell, South Dakota

P.S.— If you haven't done so yet, please send me 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!

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 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!

Daily devotions w/ Meditations, daily private Bible readings, attached Bible study/devotion...

Online live-streaming worship...

CD's of past worship...

private Communion opportunities...