



Ascension Ev. Lutheran Church

521 West 23rd Avenue
Mitchell, SD. 57301

Pastor David D. Reichel

dreichel@mitchelltelecom.net 605-996-9123



April 16, 2020

Dear Member(s) of Ascension,

Rich Easter greetings to each and every one of you, in the name of Jesus, our risen, ever-living Lord and Savior! What a wonderful blessing and great privilege it is to be able to greet you with such Easter joy and certainty because of our resurrected Savior! Words cannot express the deep-seated joy, confidence, and comfort that is ours in the One who kept His promise and did indeed conquer death and won the victory for us and for our salvation! *“This IS the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!”* (Psalm 118:24)!

I want to inform you of the fact that we have resumed regular worship services here at Ascension—even though they aren’t really “regular” or “normal” in the usual sense! Last Sunday, Easter, April 12, despite the snowstorm, we had a “trial run” of what will now be our “new normal” for “doing church”: *“parking lot worship service”!* As I had indicated in the “...Notes to Everyone” portion of last Sunday’s Easter bulletin, we were able to acquire the specialized equipment necessary to broadcast the service over a FM frequency, which enabled the people sitting in their cars in the church parking lot to listen to and partici-pate in the worship service! While this is not, obviously, “the ideal” or “preferred” or “most-desirable” or “traditional” way for us to worship, it *IS* a way for us to gather together, while still staying “socially-distanced” from each other as is necessary for the time being! So for this Sunday, April 19, we will have our Worship Service at the regular time of 8:30 AM, in our church parking lot! You can stay in your cars, tune your car radio to the frequency I will give you when you arrive, and we will worship our living and resurrected Savior “together” while staying separate! We encourage you to come, and to invite your neighbors and friends to come as well! It is truly a unique experience!

I am included the next Bible study sheet from the NPH series entitled *“19 Minute Bible Study: Very Important Chapters.”* Let me know what you think of it; if you are using/have used it/them; and if you want me to keep sending them. I’m also including the next in that series of inserts from 2017 for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation on the First Article of the **Apostles Creed** – reminding us again that our almighty God *is* in control, even now! Please take the time to study each of them carefully!

As I mentioned in last week’s letter, we obviously haven’t been able to give our regular offerings for the work of the Lord since our last Sunday service together (March 15)! I had encouraged 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”* (1 Corinthians 16:2-3). I asked you to put aside your usual weekly offering, whatever you normally give to church, but keep it in a *safe* place at home until we were able to come back together after the virus thing is over... Or mail your offering to church in check form, or drop it off at church during the week. You can still do any one of those things; or you could bring your offering with you this Sunday and present it during the “parking lot” service. Which ever way you would feel most comfortable to do it is fine.

I encourage you to check out our church website regularly, as I'm trying to keep it updated regularly to give you the latest information, updates, most-recent sermons and Scripture readings, and other such stuff there. Again, if there's anything else *you* can think of that I should also include on our website, please let me know! You might think of something that I haven't, so let me know! Thanks!

As I've stated in the past, it continues to be true: all of 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 risen, victorious Lord and Savior Jesus provides!

Yours in our risen Savior,

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