

March 18, 2020

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God the Father, His Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

The Psalmist writes in Psalm 80: "Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel.... stir up Your might and come to save us! Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine that we may be saved!"

In light of the Pandemic and cancellations of worship services until this pestilence ends, I will be communicating with you in a variety of different ways. This pastoral letter is to encourage you in your faith during these trying times. I am including various resources for you to use in your faith walk. Please make your faith walk with Jesus a priority! I am including in this mailing a copy of the Litany, I encourage you to pray it each day. Read and pray the Psalms. The upcoming Sunday Scripture readings are listed on the back of this letter. If you are looking for good Lutheran resources online, I would direct you to KFUO radio (www.kfu.org), a radio station of our Synod. Here you will find a wide range of devotional programming which includes Bible studies and worship services from area LCMS churches in the St. Louis area. It would be a great idea for you to gather your family around the computer and listen on Sunday mornings. The Lutheran Hour is also available (www.lhm.org). Please use these resources!

Locally, I will be placing my sermons weekly on our church website (www.redeemerlancaster.org). We will use Facebook and One Call to update you with information. An information card is included in this mailing, please update your information and drop it in the mail or email the church office with changes. If we are able, I will attempt to use Facebook Live to hold Sunday morning worship service at our normal time of 10:15 am. I will let you know via One Call if this becomes available.

Once again, I am available during this time to talk with you and pray with you, even if it is over the phone. I am planning to call you periodically to check in with you to see how you are doing and to pray with you.

During this time please remember to keep your tithes and offerings current, so that ministry here might continue now and into the future. Also remember our Food Pantry and Foundation Dinners and Shelters with gifts as their ministries continue during these times as well.

Church directories are available through our office, simply call in and one will be mailed to you. Please call our shut-ins and other members to check in with them. Reaching out to your church family will lighten the burden of our absence from each other. If you are in need of something and can't get out, let me know. We have member volunteers who are willing to get what you need and deliver to your door. If you would like to volunteer to help others in this way let me know.

Above all, know that you are deeply loved by Luann and myself. We hold you in our prayers and look forward when we can rejoice together in worship and Bible study. Don't be afraid but hold onto God's promises that He will never leave nor forsake you and that nothing will be able to separate you from His love for you in Jesus Christ. May the Lord have mercy on us all!

In Christ's service and yours,

Pastor Davidson