

*“The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear. The Lord is the stronghold of my life, of whom shall I be afraid.” Ps. 27:1*

Dear Brooksidiers,

It is good to be the church. Especially during this unprecedented time of closures, job loss, physical and economic uncertainty; it is good to know that the Lord is our stronghold. *The church is God’s stronghold.* Each one of us is a significant part of that stronghold for one another. We are the church and neither Satan nor a virus can close that down.

Here is just a small sampling of how we continue to be the church.

- Even now, new members are being received into the congregation and young people are professing their faith. (See this week’s bulletin for details—the bulletin can be found at [Brooksidecrc.org](http://Brooksidecrc.org) on the member resource tab on Friday, password—*membside*.)
- Elders and deacons, and staff members Jill Ellens and Phyllis Moes are reaching out to members via phone, email, and text. Likewise, they are keeping the prayer line up to date, helping folks with groceries, and keeping an eye on benevolent needs.
- Brian Bierenga is reaching out to the youth through social media and Zoom meetings. Brian is also heading up the daily (Mon-Fri) distribution of free lunches for school age children. If you want to help hand out lunches, [here's the sign-up](#) for it.
- I am posting short Facebook Live meditations each morning (go here to my [Facebook page](#)), also preaching a traditional sermon that is available each week at [brooksidecrc.org](http://brooksidecrc.org), and a Facebook Live sermon at 10:30 each Sunday. I am also working with Phyllis to make a list of Sunday morning worship resources available to you on our website ([brooksidecrc.org](http://brooksidecrc.org)) each week. These resources will include scripture and songs that correspond to the weekly message.
- Jany and Kristi are still paying bills and Kristi is making sure, along with any needed help from Tom, that the building is maintained even while it is closed.
- Brenda and Nick are helping us coordinate our communications and maintain our on-line presence.

- Nicole is available to help with any adult small group or faith formation matters and she is praying regularly for each of you.
- Suzanna is reaching out to various volunteer children's ministry leaders and trying to keep folks connected.
- In short, all of our staff (and elders and deacons) are available to answer questions and to help you in any way possible.
- Each of you are also being the church as you care for your families and neighbors, gather on-line, and love God and each other!

*Together we are the church and we are open for the Lord's ministry and work!*

Remember, you can't reach the staff through the church phone number (no one is in the building to answer), but all staff members have access to their church emails, and their home or cell numbers are in the church directory. You should feel free to use them.

I have one more sensitive note. In these uncertain economic times, some of you may be hurting financially. If so, please ask for help. We have a designated benevolent fund just for such needs. You can call your deacon or Jill Ellens for help. Some of you may be experiencing increased anxiety or struggling emotionally. If so, please ask for help. Call me, Phyllis, or your elder and we can provide personal, pastoral, and financial help to care for your emotional and mental health needs. Finally, the church as an organization also needs your continued financial giving even during these stressful times. You can still send checks or giving envelopes to the church address. You can also use our text to give program (see below), or go to our website ([brooksidecrc.org](http://brooksidecrc.org)) and click on the giving tab to see a variety of options. Again, I know that some of you will have to curtail your giving since you yourselves are financially hurting. That is understandable. Remember though, if we stick together, and more importantly stick to the Lord, we will all get through this just fine.

In Christ's love, grace, and trust,

Pastor Paul



**TEXT<sup>2</sup>GIVE**

To securely make a gift to  
Brookside Christian Reformed Church  
Text your gift **AMOUNT\***

to **(616) 741-2063**

"I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD." Ps. 27:13-14