

## *President's Note for April 2020*

"These are the times that try men's souls." Thomas Paine

We seem to be going through a time of trial now with concerns over the COVID-19 virus that have turned the world upside down. As our nation and world have weathered the storms of the Revolutionary War and the 1918 Spanish Flu, together we will weather the storm of worry and concern that surround the Corona virus. God's word in scripture, the Easter story and the love of our Lord will see us through. Reading God's word, prayer, and being there for each other by phone, text, mail, e-mail, social media, Zoom and the like will help hold us together as the body of Christ during this strange and difficult time. We thank and pray for those who work in the medical field, first responders, truckers, farmers, farm workers, warehouse workers, grocers and all of the many unseen people who work hard to hold society together that we too often take for granted. We also pray for those who are struggling with their health and for those who are now out of work or whose businesses are closed or faltering because of shelter in place precautions. Please support them in whatever way you can. Consider buying take-out or a gift card from local businesses.

We will continue to worship together in different formats until we are able to return to physically gathering for worship in our much loved sanctuary. Wherever and however we gather, we remain the body of Christ. As I write this column we are meeting by joint teleconference with our friends in Christ from Lutheran Church of the Cross, led by our own third Sunday Pastor Dee Emmert. We thank Pastor Emmert, President Craig Paul and members of Lutheran Church of the Cross for allowing us to join with them in worship. In an odd way this time of being physically apart may bring us closer together. The format and venue for worship may change and evolve to adapt to these strange circumstances over coming weeks before we are able to return to worship in our 59th Street sanctuary. Please check your e-mails, our website and our Facebook

page for updates on specifics for worship. We'll continue to call those without e-mail or internet access to check in and keep each other up to date. You'll find information on options for worship towards the end of this newsletter edition. Anyone in the congregation work in IT, a web designer, code writer, Zoom or tech wizard and like to help us bolster our online presence? More and more churches are augmenting their physical presence with a web based presence, particularly now with social distancing.

Also, don't forget that while we are physically apart the expenses of maintaining our church campus and ministry continue. Please continue to give where able and either mail your offering to the church or drop your offering envelope through the church office door mail slot. Anyone open to online giving? We'll explore options for electronic giving should sufficient requests warrant that possibility. Thanks to all of you who continue to help make our presence and ministry possible.

Despite our present worries and concerns, know that Emmanuel, our God with us, Jesus the Christ, the Messiah, our Lord and Savior is ever with us and watching over us and that through his Passion, crucifixion and death our sins are forgiven and the promise of life eternal exists and remains. Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. Hallelujah! Thanks be to God!

**"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." St. Paul, Romans 8:38-39 NRSV**

Blessings, safety and good health

In Him,

Chuck Prewett

Your Council President