



A Vibrant Community for All, Rooted in God's Grace.

Hope Lutheran Church

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Pastor Keith Marshall

Beloved Members and Friends of Hope Lutheran Church,

I pray you are all doing well and staying safe. As we hunker down at home, I want to provide an update on what is happening here at the church. It has been wonderful connecting with many of you in a variety of ways. I appreciate the ways members of Hope are reaching out to each other. Please continue reaching out and to praying!

Below are three topics for your attention:

Sunday Mornings:

This past Sunday, while different, was filled with many hidden blessings. I have heard from people about how meaningful the Worship and Virtual Coffee Hour were. This past Sunday was a reminder that in the midst of tragedy, God is shining rays of joy and hope!

Therefore, I will continue to post a prerecorded worship service at 10am each Sunday. I hope to find unique ways to offer these worship experiences. In addition, I will host Virtual Coffee Hours at 11am. Be looking for those links in emails and on Hope's Facebook page. (By the way, if you are not following Hope on Facebook, please do: <https://www.facebook.com/Hope-Lutheran-Church-Enumclaw-WA-1606229096370066/>)

Paying Employees:

Last week, I shared with our church council my strong conviction that we continue to pay all of our employees while we cannot gather. I appreciate their strong support and affirmation with this decision! Continuing to pay our employees is the ethical and faithful way to support

them during this time. They should not bear the weight of us being unable to gather and meet.

It is for this reason, and our other ongoing financial needs, your continued giving is essential for our church during this time! Please make arraignments to mail your offering to the church or set up online giving. Here is the link to set up online giving:
<https://www.hopelutheranchurch.org/giving.html>

Holy Week and Easter:

At this point, there is no indication that we will be allowed to gather for Holy Week or Easter Sunday. It has taken me the better part of last week to reconcile this fact in my mind. As much as it pains me to come to this conclusion, we will not be able to gather in person for worship during that time. I share in your heartbreak and disappointment with this fact.

It is important to remember that Easter is not on a fixed date like Christmas. In any given year, there is a 28-day window Easter Sunday could fall on (Maybe one of my daily videos will be to explain that fun fact!). Regardless, we will not miss celebrating Jesus' Resurrection as a congregation. I will be working on meaningful ways for us to walk through Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter together while remaining apart.

Knowing that online videos can never replace gathering for worship, the first Sunday we gather in person again for worship will be Easter! On that day, we will have a full-blown Easter Service! We will celebrate the Good News that Jesus' death and resurrection have conquered sin and death once and for all!

People of God, be reminded that we are Easter people. Meaning, we cling to the hope and promise of Jesus' resurrection everyday of our lives; the disruption by the Coronavirus will never change that fact!

I pray this letter finds you well. As always, please contact me with any questions or concerns.

May Christ go with you!

Pastor Keith