

Dear Saints of St. Luke,

*"God is our refuge and strength, and ever-present help in trouble...therefore we will not fear." Ps. 46:1-2*

With these words, the Psalmist reminds us that no matter the circumstances going on around us, God is. The divine name "Yahweh" itself means "I am." We can take great comfort in knowing that our almighty God, the Creator of the universe is in control even now, and holds us in the palm of His hand. We have his promise that He is greater than any disease, virus, or pandemic.

We are living in days of uncertainty and anxiety as we hear about the spread of Coronavirus, and see the impact and fear that it is generating. We are at the same time called by God to place our hope and trust in Him as he continues to give us our daily bread – all that we need to support our bodies and lives – as the Small Catechism teaches us. We are also to show great care and concern for our neighbor and help them in their time of need.

As we approach this weekend of worship, we want to first let you know that worship will continue as planned and scheduled this weekend. It is a testament and show of our faith not to let fear and anxiety prevent us from hearing and receiving exactly what we need most in this time - God's Word and Sacrament that delivers forgiveness and strengthens our faith. We will confidently be holding worship services for those who are able to attend.

At the same time, we are putting into practice a few health and safety precautions in order to maintain a clean and healthy environment for worship, that we hope will reassure you and calm any anxiety that might prevent you from coming to church. A few of these precautions are:

- Refraining from shaking hands or embracing during times of greeting
- Placing hand sanitizer in prominent areas such as building entrances and bathrooms
- Extra cleaning measures in the sanctuary including wiping off pews, and the communion rail prior to worship with Lysol.
- Removing, temporarily, the use of the Common Cup in our communion practice
- Asking that all members receive the host (wafer) by hand, and not directly into the mouth

We continue to monitor and stay up to date with recommendations from local and national authorities and health officials, and encourage you to do the same. We will make decisions based on guidance from those whose vocation it is to make such recommendations. Most importantly, if you are not feeling well, please stay home.

As your Pastors, we believe this to be an opportunity for us to rally around one another showing our mutual love for the neighbor, as well as boldly placing our trust in God. We hope that you will join in praise and worship of our God this weekend at St Luke.

With much love and care,



Pastor Ben Berteau



Pastor Barry Keurulainen