

March 27, 2020

Dear Resurrection Lutheran Church brothers and sisters,

Greetings in the name of our Lord of the cross, Jesus Christ! As we weather the many unexpected twists and turns of life, especially those in these busy weeks that impact our worship life as we count down to Holy Week and Easter, I once again call to mind the verse I mentioned a few weeks ago as our "theme" verse for these challenging days: "[Jesus said:] 'Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world'" (John 16:32-33). Though we, like the first disciples, are good at seeing the world's trouble, in Christ we do not give in to fear and anxiety but live...in the confident hope of our final victory!

By now you have no doubt heard about the stay-at-home order issued by Wake County yesterday, March 26, that is to be in effect until April 17. As an organization that is "subject to the governing authorities" (Rom. 13:1) and desiring to do all that we can possibly do to flatten the curve and be good neighbors to the people of our area, I have consulted with your leadership team at Resurrection and made the following decisions (in effect until April 17, at the earliest):

- 1) All people, whether paid staff, volunteers, or church members 65 years of age and older will be asked to refrain from being on the church premises;
- 2) All church staff that are able to work from home will do so;
- 3) Church staff unable to work from home for the most basic of church maintenance tasks will be in the office only on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9 AM to 3 PM. This will also allow for an even more thorough sanitation of surfaces on Monday and Friday afternoons that are still being used in certain limited portions of the building;
- 4) Paid and volunteer staff as well as small groups within the church desiring to meet or do Bible study are encouraged to contact [Margaret Hyatt](#) in the church office and set up meetings using our church's new video conference platform (Zoom);

5) The adjusted date of my pastor's Sabbath will be Saturdays, not Fridays; I intend to maintain a presence at church during regular church hours as much as I can.

Here are the most difficult words for this pastor to write: We will not be able to worship together in person as we are accustomed to doing during Holy Week or for Easter Sunday.

Nevertheless, your church staff are planning for ways that we can encourage you to enjoy a meaningful day of Holy Week and Easter worship. Easter Sunday 2020 is more than just a day on the calendar! It is, rather, a way of life that perhaps God is teaching us to enjoy and live out in unfamiliar (and yet, therefore, more memorable and unexpectedly meaningful) ways this year.

If you need care of any kind, please do not hesitate to call the church office and leave a voicemail for me. You may also leave a message for us at our church's Facebook Page ([@ResurrectionLutheranCary](#)). I will check for messages and email on Tuesdays and Thursdays to insure that I don't miss anything. Don't forget to always look for church announcements on our Facebook page, website, and in your email should any status change.

We joyfully await another day of "resurrection": the day we will once again gather in person and receive the gifts of God together!

Shalom in Christ Jesus,
Pastor Jonathan