

May 10, 2020

Dear brothers and sisters,

Easter joy to each and every one of you! We are now in the eighth week of social distancing at our church, and I thought it would be a good time, following Governor Cooper's most recent executive order (published last Tuesday), to provide an update on where matters stand at Resurrection.

As I preached last Sunday, we are a people tasked by God to be subject/under the authority of those whom God has placed in governance over us (Romans 13:1; 1 Peter 2:13-15)—so far as conscience will allow. We therefore want to support those who are giving guidance to us and to promote the general welfare of our community to the best of our ability. While the governor has mentioned worship as an exception to a "mass gathering" (an event that brings together more than 10 persons at the same time in a single space), the focus on continued vigilance in the area of social distancing and recommended practices to reduce transmission of the Covid-19 virus requires us to take the continued threat seriously.

To that end, in consultation with staff at Resurrection, I've decided to hold off on opening general in-person worship services to our congregation until we receive permission to gather 100 or more people at a time. No on-site activities will be planned on the church premises for now, and office hours will remain 9 AM to 3 PM Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. We continue to maintain a vigorous cleaning regimen for staff and guest safety. However, if you visit the church building for any reason, we ask that you wear a mask and limit your visit to the portion of the building where the church offices are located. Cloth masks are available for you to wear and take with you, should you have need of them.

I do not doubt that many of you yearn for reception of the Lord's Supper together with the members of your church family, as I do. While I encourage you to use this time of a Holy Communion "fast" to focus on the gift of the Lord's presence wherever "two or three gather together" in Jesus' name (Matthew 18:20), please reach out to me if you would like to schedule Holy Communion at any time for yourself or the members of any group you may choose to gather of 9 or fewer people. Groups like this may assemble either at church or in your own home. You can contact me to schedule this at my email address:

[jonathan.blanke@rlcary.org](mailto:jonathan.blanke@rlcary.org). Please continue to remain in God's Word through your own

personal devotions, our congregation's weekly Bible studies and cyberspace gatherings offered through Zoom, and the online content you can find on our church [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

I will update all of you again regarding church reopening, office hours, and opportunities for Holy Communion following the governor's next scheduled executive order regarding Phase 2 of the statewide reopening later this month.

As God's Easter people, let us thrive by draining dry the overflowing cup that our Good Shepherd provides (Psalm 23:5). The One who came did not only come in order that we might have life...but that we might have it abundantly (John 10:10)!

Shalom in Christ,  
Pastor Jonathan