

## OSLC Newsletter April 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This is less email and more letter, I suppose. As I write this, we are halfway through the third week of suspending all *in-person* worship, activities and communication. As many of you know, we are still doing our best to hold worship, meet and communicate...just all of that is 'virtual'—meaning electronic.

Just to summarize: I have been leading a shorter worship service on Facebook Live every Sunday at 9am on the church's Facebook page (Our Savior's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Oshkosh) . It is then posted on our church's website:

oursaviorsoshkosh.org . For the kids, I post videos, or do live videos on the church's Sunday School page. I send out a daily email to anyone with an email address.

We have been 'meeting' with a program called Zoom. In that we can see and/or hear each other to talk. Council meets each week this way. Circles can and have met this way. I teach confirmation this way. I meet with my pastor colleagues for text study and with our bishop and synod this way. You and I can have a 1:1 conversation this way...and just last Sunday we held our first 'Virtual Coffee Hour' on Zoom. **Twenty five people came**, most with video but a few on their phones...and we could hear each other.

I have been calling you. I'm trying to speak to everyone as best I can. If you have not heard from me, I plan to call! If I haven't called, please don't hesitate to call me. I am trying to check in more with our shut ins who are isolated or alone.

We have made cost saving measures. For now we only mail to folks without email. We've reprogrammed the furnaces and the hot water heaters. Our finance team is working very carefully to analyze each bill and expense. In March, we worshipped together two Sundays before suspending worship. Some offerings have been mailed in, some people continued their normal online giving and some people began using the new, easier direct online giving program called GivePlus+. (Info attached, or in this envelope. You can use our website to access it as well). **We were able to pay our bills and salaries in March as a result.**

We have laid off our musicians as they are not working. Our custodian is doing the deep cleaning and sanitizing needed after Vickie, the finance folks and I come in to work and getting to painting and repairs which were overdue. Vickie works as needed.

What will April bring? I know that some of you have been laid off or are now unable to work. Some have very real fears of not meeting their own expenses. If you are able to give your regular offerings to God, please do consider doing so in one of the ways detailed above.

Finally, I bring up the subject of my retirement. My last day of work is still going to be May 31<sup>st</sup>. As I say often, I am still your pastor until then and am doing my very best in a world that seems to change every day. I can't visit but we can communicate and I while I hope and pray that we can see each other before I leave, in the absence of an assurance of that, I will do all I can to be in contact with you until then. I encourage you all to reach out to each other. We have redone our directory with correct emails and phone numbers. If you would like one, please let me know.

The world changes every day, but God does not. You are loved—by your beloved heavenly Father and your pastor. Every blessing, Pastor Jan