

“For all the saints”
ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH “Oasis of Joy” USA
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April 22, 2020

Dear Friends ...

Sure do miss all of you.

I go through the address labels ... wondering if we should continue sending these communications if you haven't been here for a long time. Then I think --- “Hey ... maybe one more letter ... they just may return!@!!” And now??? ----- we are all physically separated. Never ... in a million years!! ... would I have ever thought this is the way church-life would be!@!!

Will the church ever be the same?

You and me??? ... are we forever changed??

The stuff I used to worry about ... the stuff I get pre-occupied with --- wow, a lot of it doesn't matter.

What matters is the HEART AND SOUL of each one of you.

Taking care of yourself ... taking care of those around you ... staying connected at a time when we can easily become disconnected.

Here is what we are trying to do. I've told our staff that #1 is taking care of yourself and being safe. Len comes in everyday to get our “thought for the day” on-line. Doug's attention to detail with our sound makes such a difference. Debbie and Kathy keep the ship afloat. Linda keepin' it clean ... Bob stopping by ... Mike's gift of music ----- everyone giving what they can.

Our comptroller Kathy still pays the bills on time. Can't thank Peggy enough for helping to keep me grounded and moderately humble.

**We continue to have our daily “thought for the day” ---- most of the time live-streamed at noon.

**Sunday worship is live-streamed at 9:30.

Everything goes live to our “Friends of All Saints” Facebook page and YouTube. Afterwards Len puts the “thought for the day” and our worship onto the website: allsaintsjoy.com.

Occasionally there is a glitch ... and you may have to “re-start” ... you can always give us a call if you need help. (Don't ask for me ----- I have no idea what I'm doing!@!!).

My biggest concern is STAYING CONNECTED during this unpredictable journey. The day will come when our doors are open for worship. And we will handle that eventuality with care and love.

In the meantime ----- our building is usually open in the morning. You can drop by ... keep a safe distance ... say a prayer in the sanctuary ... drop off what you want ... even take a kids' sermon toy!!

*Certainly your financial and spiritual support are important. I know some of you are hurting financially ... and your first obligation is to yourself and family.

I am inspired and humbled by the number of you who are mailing in and/or dropping off your support. The response to our “LOVE BUCKET ASSISTANCE FUND” has been great. PLEASE ----- if you or someone in your family or someone you know needs a boost ... help is only a phone call away.

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Please let us know of folks whom you would like included in our “prayer book.”

The book goes on the altar every day ... and in the silence of the moment, their names
are remembered.

A grateful “shout-out” to Joel. He and his wife Jen and their daughter Janie are relatively “new”
to our community. He’s a video-guy ... and is adding some nice touches to our Sunday worship.

To all of you Sunday School teachers and families ...
You will be getting something in the mail soon ... and even a follow-up email ----- to participate in
a fun activity ... inspired by the kids’ book “Flat Stanley.”
Flat Jesus??? Honoring Jesus??? ----- you will find out.

It’s hard not being able to visit folks who are hospitalized or in assisted living.
Please let us know of loved-ones who need our prayers. And let us know, too, when it becomes
ok to have visitors.

Each of you ... every one of you ----- you are important to our church community.
Now ... more than ever ... we need you, and want to be there for you.

I’ve discovered in a very quiet and powerful way ... that the church is never empty.
The church is you.
The church is us.
And Jesus comes alive in the kindness and generosity we choose to share.

*To those who are sick.

*To those whose earthly journey has ended.

*To our doctors and nurses and aides and first-responders ... whose courage cannot be measured.

*To those who go to work each day ----- to take care of us.

*To those who wish they could go to work everyday ... but can’t.

LET US ALL WALK THIS JOURNEY TOGETHER ... with faith and grace and hope.

Love to all

Don