



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF THE
Resurrection

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September 6, 2020

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are sending this letter to you communicate LCR's COVID-19 Protocols. We recognize that the timing of this letter may seem odd—we've been in the midst of this global pandemic for a number of months now—but with the end of summer activities and the return of school, it is important to be forthright and clear in our protocols as we return to some kind of "normalcy." In no way do we want this letter to communicate fear. As Jesus said, **Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul** (Matthew 10:28). We do, however, want this letter to communicate **concern: Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves** (Philippians 2:3). We are concerned for you and your health, and we are also concerned for our neighbors and their health. At the same time, as a church commissioned by Jesus to **make disciples of all nations** (Matthew 28:19), we are called to boldly proclaim the Gospel of Jesus, even (and, dare we say, *especially*) in a time of a global pandemic.

The challenge is, we are living in a world which is vastly different than it was eight months ago. It doesn't matter what your views on this situation are—our world has changed. Look around you: you'll see people filled with anger, frustration, and/or fear. The state of the world today has revealed humanity's need for a Savior. Our challenge is, we cannot reach people with the message of Jesus in the same ways which we are accustomed to—the world has changed.

As the Elders of this congregation, we have spent many long hours discussing this predicament. How do we care for souls in desperate need of the message of Jesus? And just as importantly, how do we do this in a *safe* way? We fully recognize that there is no perfect solution. We live in a fallen world, after all. Despite this, we are working to ensure that we can care for all members of our congregation by providing a mixture of in person gatherings, online events, and private meetings, as needed—always with the goal of proclaiming the message of Christ crucified and ensuring that God's people stay connected to the True Vine (John 15).

This letter includes a current draft of LCR's COVID-19 Protocols. We refer to this as a "draft" because we recognize that our situation is constantly changing. Because of this, we will be constantly re-evaluating these protocols. We will continue to work diligently to ensure that we are providing a safe gathering environment which is in conformity with the guidelines of our Governor and the CDC. Please see the church website (lcrwtvl.org/covid-19-protocols) for any updated information. Major changes to these protocols will be communicated to you directly.

We appreciate your prayers and support through these times. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please don't hesitate to speak with one of us!

In Christ,

Rev. Benjamin Akers
Pastor

Mr. Chris Batson
Head Elder

Dr. Tom Huesers
Elder

Our mission is "To Open Hearts" through the message of Christ Crucified.