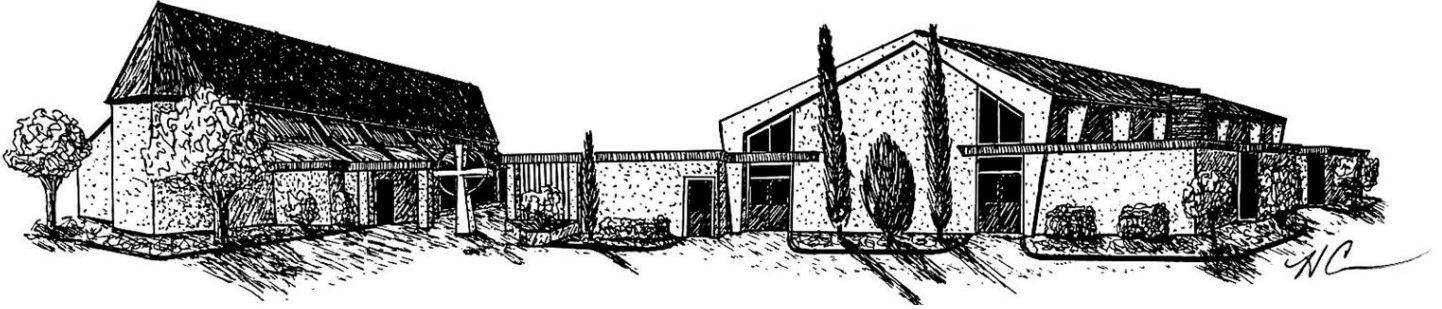


Lutheran Church of Our Savior



An Easter Letter

April 8, 2020 AD

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

“Why do you seek the living One with the dead? He is not here, but is risen.” Luke 24:5b-6a

These have been strange days! Millions upon millions of people sheltering-in-place. Once the most common of supplies now become precious to us. Schools closed. Streets empty. And, in Holy Week, the doors of Christian churches closed. If these days seem surreal, the days seemed just as surreal—if not more so—to disciples of Jesus Christ two millennia ago. Their expectations of and for their lives seemed to be dashed and the ordinary course of things turned upside down when their Hope, Jesus Christ, was arrested, crucified, died, and was buried. But, of course, already by early Sunday morning, even before they realized it, Jesus Christ had risen from death to life. And the hope of humanity rose with Him.

Unordinary, tense, and surreal as these days may be, Jesus Christ still is risen. While erratic investment markets and unpredictable medical trajectories change, and perhaps hopes and expectations with them, the monumental and life-defining fact of these days, of every day, remains the same: Christ still is risen! Therefore, you and I can live (not fraudulently, but authentically) in the daily peace of sins atoned for and forgiven—because Christ still is risen. You and I can live without fear of life’s circumstances and even of the unknown, knowing that Christ still is risen. You and I can live in a daring and self-giving love for one another and for our neighbors in their needs because Christ still is risen. And for the one who trusts in Him Who died for us and rose for us, his life is secure in Christ, no matter what these days, or any day, may bring.

In these days to come we encourage you to make use of our Lord’s word regularly—by reading and self-study and/or by way of the features found at the congregation’s website, www.lcos.org. (Even though the world has stopped—as it were, our foe, the devil, won’t cease his attempts to deceive us or mislead us.) We hope that you have found at the church’s website also the letters of instruction and information that have been made available there as well. (If you don’t have access to the church’s website and didn’t receive also the aforementioned letters in the envelope with this letter but would like to receive them, then please contact me at 408.899.4847.) Beyond our exhortation to make ready and regular use of our Lord’s word, we encourage you to pray—for the Church, for the world, and for each other: your fellow members of Lutheran Church of Our Savior.

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Our Lord willing, soon we will be able to gather again as one family to give ear to the Shepherd's voice, to sing the beloved liturgy and our hymns, to pray as one people, and, of course, to receive our Savior's body and blood in the blessed Lord's Supper. Until that day, let us daily remind ourselves that Jesus Christ still is risen.

*I know that my Redeemer lives;
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my ever-living head.*

*He lives to silence all my fears;
He lives to wipe away my tears;
He lives to calm my troubled heart;
He lives all blessings to impart.*

*He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives to bring me safely there.*

(LSB, 461.1,5,7; public domain)

*In the Risen One,
Pastor John Bestul*

Wednesday of Holy Week, 2020