

March 23, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

How hard it is not to see and be with you during this season of Lent!

The positive side to having everyone stay home and away from the church is that our buildings have a chance to rest and to breathe and, if there are any corona viruses lurking, they will soon get discouraged and die!

I consulted with our Finance Committee about the financial health of our church, and they assure me that Trinity is in good financial shape. Our funds, our pledges, and our expenditures have been managed in a prudent fashion for many years now. The best way to maintain your financial pledge is to send it to us through the mail. Barb Bodengraven, our parish administrator, picks up the mail on a regular basis.

In these difficult economic times, Trinity can still pay her salaries in full and cover all her expenses. Trinity Preschool is able to refund tuitions for classes that have been canceled and still pay her teachers until the end of the school year. Thank you for your continuing financial support.

The Bishops have now canceled public worship through Easter and probably for some time beyond that. You can look forward to more videos and communications from me. There will be opportunities for individuals and families to experience guided meditations that will take place outside in the Gethsemane Garden and at the outdoor altar. People will be able to come when it makes sense for them to come and be present in these outdoor spaces when no one else is around.

Next Sunday, I will keep the church open for prayer from 8 am through 11 am.

We are looking into how to use online meeting platforms in order to enhance the ways we can be together in these strange and difficult times.

We are already missing the Easter Egg Hunt, seeing people, especially children and teenagers, that we haven't seen in a while, reveling in the beauty of our church decorated for Easter and singing our favorite Easter hymns.

In an effort to connect with the members of our church family that we see mostly at Easter, we are going to send out Easter boxes to all our children and teens. If you have children and grandchildren whom you usually invite, or would like to invite to Easter services, please email their names, street addresses and their ages to Barb Bodengraven, at **trinity.episcopalchurch@verizon.net**, and we will send them a box. There will be boxes for toddlers and preschoolers, school-aged children and teenagers.

What a lot to think about and what a lot to do!

As always, you remain in my heart and in my prayers.

May the Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

In Christ,
Rebecca