

Dear Siblings in Christ,

We know that the next several months will be difficult. Measures needed to contain the spread of COVID-19 mean that jobs and livelihoods are at risk. Losses in the stock market mean that anxiety about retirement accounts is high. As a church, we are working to be good stewards of the gifts you have shared with Lutheran Church of Our Saviour as we continue to share God's love to a frightened and hurting world.

We are discovering *what matters* in our being church together.

- + We are providing weekly email worship, recorded audio worship, and—in the cases of our members without internet access—postal mailings, because *worship matters*.
- + We are gathering weekly for prayer over the telephone, Bible Study on the internet, and Children's Sermon videos on YouTube, because *God's Word matters*.
- + We are still feeding the hungry and meeting our financial commitments to social ministries such as Richmond Friends of the Homeless, the Chesterfield Alliance for Social Ministry, and Lutheran World Relief, because *servicing the poor matters*.
- + We have opened a special COVID-19 Relief Fund to support members, staff, and preschool staff impacted financially by this pandemic, because *servicing the least among us matters*.
- + We have developed a phone tree led by eleven "Shepherds"—congregants who check in on every member of our congregation once a week—because *you matter*.

To continue our shared ministry, *your generosity matters!* The "Options for Giving" document included in this mailing provides ideas on how to share a financial gift from home.

We may not need ushers on Sunday morning for the next several weeks, but we do need people to write cards of encouragement, make phone calls, and share their time, wisdom, and skills to make ministry happen. I welcome your reflections on our current ministry and ideas for doing Christ's ministry in this time and place. Please contact me at pastorkatie@lcosva.org.

In this time of physical distancing, we are all connected as the Body of Christ. In this time of fear and uncertainty, because of Christ's resurrection, we are people of hope.

Thank you for being a part of Lutheran Church of Our Saviour. Thank you for your faithfulness to God. Thank you for your financial support for our shared ministry. Christ's ministry matters! Your generosity matters! And *you matter!*

Peace and hope,
Rev. Kathryn L. Pocalyko