



17 April 2020

Dear friends and family in Christ:

We sincerely hope and pray that you and your family are doing well and staying healthy while navigating this time of pandemic. As we practice social distancing, your LCR Council, staff, and volunteers are reaching out together in new, healthy, and meaningful ways. We've been hard at work making sure we connect with each member of this family of faith by

1. Sending daily scripture and prayer foci to all for whom we have email addresses
2. Posting inspirational thoughts on our website ([www.resurrection-oakforest.org](http://www.resurrection-oakforest.org)) each morning
3. Praying together at 7pm each evening from our own homes
4. Learning to videotape a modified liturgy for each service and posting it on our website as well as Facebook
5. Calling every member, done by volunteers who are available to pray, listen, laugh, cry and be with you as you need.

An additional step that we have taken to ensure our faith community continues to exist after this world-wide crisis was to apply for the Small Business Administration loan for paycheck protection program (PPP). These are potentially forgivable loans for small businesses and non-for-profits to keep people from being laid-off, fired, or furloughed during this pandemic. The percentage of interest charged will be 1%, if not forgiven. The amount that we are eligible for is 2 months' worth of staff salaries (only enough for salaries). We needed to do this because we have not been receiving offerings in amounts that will sustain us – staff, utilities, insurance, or mortgage. Our utilities are 3 months in arrears, Pastor's benefits (health insurance) has not been paid for 3 months and our mortgage is behind 3 months.

We are at a very real crossroads and, while the assistance from the government will lend some space to breathe and assure our staff that we have not forgotten them or their need for a livable wage during the shut-down, **WE HAVE NOT HEARD ANYTHING FROM OUR LENDER AND ALL FUNDS EARMARKED FOR THIS HAVE ALREADY BEEN EXPENDED!** Congress is looking at another possible outlay of funds and our synod is looking at how best to financially support struggling congregation, but we may not be able to wait for these possibilities to materialize.



**Lutheran Church of the Resurrection urgently needs your support during this critical time as we continue to help one another navigate this unprecedented crisis.**

Please prayerfully consider mailing your offerings into the church each week. You can also give online by accessing our website (link above) or by registering LCR with your bank for an automatic withdrawal/payment in whatever amount you have pledged. For Thrivent Financial members, you can earmark your Choice Dollars to LCR at this time.

We may not be able to be “in” church but we “are” the church scattered – the body of Christ poured out for the world. Keep calm, carry on, give and pray regularly. **Together, we remain strong in Christ and His resurrected life!**

In Christ’s name,

The Rev Mary Appelt Graves,  
Pastor