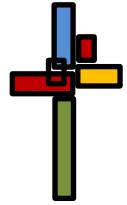


**Our Saviour's Lutheran Church**

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Greetings Siblings in Christ,

March 5, 2021

Sunday March 15<sup>th</sup> was the last time we worshipped in our building. It's hard to believe that almost 1 year has passed since everything changed so drastically. We thought we would be back by Easter, then maybe during the summer, then September, then it must be Christmas. Now we find ourselves hoping for September and perhaps Christmas 2021. For some it might feel like life has been put on hold. For others it's sped up significantly. In all of this we are left to wonder what the future will hold for us as a community and a church family.

Who are we? What are we about? These huge questions are being put to us. Even bigger what is God about? Where is God in this time of waiting for some and busyness for others?

One thing is clear, we are no longer in our physical building. Though many are waiting for the return of this form of togetherness others have discovered the meaning to Nicolai Grundtvig stanza from "Built on a Rock":

*Christ builds a house of living stones: we are his own habitation; he fills our hearts his humble thrones, granting us life and salvation. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their midst will show his grace, blessings upon them bestowing.*

God is about many things right here and now! Waiting for what will be is to miss what God is generously inviting you into right now. What is that threshold that you're afraid to step over? Jesus says, "Do not be afraid." What is that space, that new way of being that Jesus is inviting you to walk into? Jesus says, "Do not be afraid." Yet we are afraid and so we need each other.

We long for the familiarity of certain spaces and certain faces. And we celebrate that we've seen and heard God in our worship space and among familiar friends. And yet so often Jesus is found in the unfamiliar and unknown. The thing is we don't step out alone. We step out together. If you didn't have a chance to listen to Pastor Katrina Vigen's sermon for Lent 2 I invite you to listen by clicking the link below. She beautifully reminds us that we do not do this alone.

[https://youtu.be/iqsEHpYKY\\_4](https://youtu.be/iqsEHpYKY_4)

During Lent we are joining with other congregations because that is the future of the church. We aren't going to be able to do this alone. We haven't for a long time but the pandemic has made it so much more obvious.

All of this is on Zoom. What I've noticed in all this is that congregations that are using zoom for worship and study are staying more connected. It's also giving them a chance to invite others from different churches and the community to participate. We create community when we see each other, hear each other, say the Lord's prayer together and share the peace together in

worship. And it isn't just the act of gathering as a congregation that enlivens this. It's the chance to gather with others from different congregations and the community. It builds community in a wholistic sense.

That is why I invite you this Lent to join in the Sunday zoom worship with Redeemer. Maybe you usually use You Tube or Facebook. Join worship in a new way. If you need help call the office, Renee or myself. We will walk you through the process and get you set up. Perhaps you miss studying scripture. Try out the Wednesday study of the Psalms with Redeemer at noon. Or maybe you want to see the gospel through a radically different set of eyes, through the eyes of the rejected. Join our joint Queer's the Word Study with St Paul's Monday's at 7 pm. There's also Holden Evening Prayer with St Paul's on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm.

God is expanding who we are and what we are about. The potter is shaping the clay. Give us the faith, gracious God, to be formed in the likeness of your Son Jesus Christ. In you we have all that we need.

In God's Love,



Pastor Fleming Blishen