

Grace and peace!

Well we continue in the midst of the Corona Virus Pandemic. This past Monday, March 30, 2020, Governor Hogan issued a "Stay at Home" order. This means that our office continues to be closed; we will be checking our messages (phone and email). Please note that you can also reach Pastor Karen via cell phone (302-245-4221), email (handy.karen@gmail.com) or St. Luke's Facebook page or website messaging systems.

We heard from several that you had a hard time accessing the service last week. To better streamline and make access easier we have updated and placed most of what you need on our website (www.stlukesdenton.org) It is here that you will find the videos for worship (this includes Sundays and each day of Holy Week). The link will be under the tab at the top with the word "Sermons." You will find the current sermon a little way down the page. If you click on it, it will start the video. If you would like a larger screen to watch it, click on the 4 way arrows that are just left of the word "Vimeo."

You will also find that our online giving is now up and functioning. You can give online or via text. Instructions for text giving and the form to complete for online giving are under the "Donate" tab. There is a small processing fee (3% for credit cards/debit cards and 1% for checking drafts). If you wish to offset that cost, there is a tab at the bottom of the form that will allow you to do this. You can also mail a gift in the old fashioned way by the United States Postal Service. The church's mailing address is 100 S Fifth Ave., Denton, MD 21629. Another option is using BillPay through your bank.

We will continue a midweek prayer time through the church's Facebook page at 8pm Wednesdays.

We WILL NOT offer Sunday School, Youth Group, Prayer Groups or Bible Studies Chancel Choir, bell choir, and praise team at this time in person. However, we have used Zoom for a few gatherings with great success. You may hear of more opportunities.

With that said, Walt Palmer has offered to do a Zoom Sunday School class. Read his note below:

St. Luke's is offering online Sunday School class for senior high students and adults beginning Palm Sunday, April 5. The lesson will be on Zoom, so it will not just be lecture, but also class participation. The lesson will start at 9:00 A.M., and run for approximately 30 minutes, with allowance for 10 minutes overtime. This leaves time for everyone to take a break and return in time for online worship at 10:00.

There is no need to download software or ramp up your software skills. Walt Palmer will send an email to the people interested. That email will contain a link to the site and a password for entry. You will need a smartphone, tablet, laptop, or desktop with webcam and microphone capability. On Sunday morning, connect to the link, supply the password, and you're in.

If you wish to participate, email Walt at walter_b_palmer@hotmail.com, or message him on his Facebook site, and provide your email address, so he can send you the invitation.

Upcoming lessons are:

April 5: Palm Sunday: what happened and how it made Good Friday inevitable

April 12: Easter: what happened, why we can believe the Gospels about this, & why it is important

April 19 & following: the Bible and science, starting "in the beginning"

We continue to work to help you connect with God and each other. It is my greatest hope and prayer that you know you are not alone in this difficult time. I know that Jesus is faithful in his promises and he said that he is with us always. St. Luke's is with you also.

If you know of anyone that is struggling in anyway during this crisis, please let me know! We are called to be the hands and feet of Christ. While this may look different than in the past, we still continue His mission!

I pray that each and every one of you stays healthy, and healing to those affected by the virus. I pray that God grants us peace during this uneasy time.

Pastor Karen