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Bethlehem Lutheran Church - Davey

**Remember to bring cookies
for Matt Talbot prior to the
second Monday of the month.**



April Helpers

Well, really the only helpers we'll need are lectors. We'll start having different people read from their homes. I will send out requests each week.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
PO Box 96
Davey, NE 68336

Lent and Holy Week, Covid 19 Style

One of my favorite social media memes going around now says this: "This is the Lentiest Lent I've ever Lented." No kidding. Lent is supposed to be a time that's at least a little bit set apart from the normal routine...a time to slow down, reflect, and deepen faith. Well, this Lent is that in spades. We've had no choice but to slow down.

There are lots of new things that will come out of this...good things even. And when hard times hit, most of us have reserves of strength and faith to draw from...we'll get through all this, and maybe be stronger for it. And so far we are all well. My most fervent prayer is that we will stay that way.

But I'm writing this a few days before Holy Week begins. The Passion of Jesus is looming. On Sunday, we'll mark his triumphal entry into Jerusalem. By Friday that sense of celebration will end in Jesus' arrest, the sickening crack of the whip, and finally with Jesus, hanging on the cross. The cross is that place where all human suffering from sin, death, sickness and evil comes to a point.

As we enter the third week of this, there's bound to be a mix of emotions. It's OK to acknowledge those. We can be brave and do what needs to be done, and at the same time admit we're a little afraid. There's a lot of space between panicked and dismissive, and most of us fall in the in-between.

It's OK to express gratitude for health and safety, but at the same time be sad about the disappointments. Trips have been canceled or postponed – our family trip to the Czech Republic is on hold. Weddings are being postponed...funerals even. Seniors in high school and college will miss a lot of the "lasts." Birthday parties, anniversaries, reunions...on hold.

I'll grant that is a very small thing in the grand scheme of things, but I'm disappointed that Major League Baseball is on hold and could possibly not even happen. We bought a little package of tickets to Cubs games this year. I'm disappointed that our daughter won't be home for Easter.

All of those disappointments pale in the chance to save people's lives by doing what we're supposed to. And they especially pale in the face of the death of a loved one from the virus. But the smaller disappointments still hurt, and it's OK to acknowledge that.

Even though we won't have the big Easter to-do on Easter, we will celebrate the resurrection. And after we come back together, there will be a chance to celebrate again.

But as we come into Holy Week and approach the cross, it's OK to acknowledge that this pandemic is a very cross-shaped experience. In ways small and gigantic, people are suffering. Because of the cross, we can trust that Jesus is always where people are suffering, walking with us. And he's probably washing his hands a lot.

Christ's peace in strange times,

Pastor Kris

Instructions for virtual worship options

Sunday Worship is at 10:00 am via Zoom:

Link: <https://zoom.us/j/767163430>

Meeting ID: 767-163-430

From a tablet or phone, it's easiest to just download the Zoom app.

And...you can also dial in by phone.

Dial +1 312 626 6799. When prompted, enter the meeting ID (767-163-430)with your keypad.

} These will likely stay the same for the duration

Good Friday worship by Zoom

Time: Apr 10, 2020 06:30 PM Central Time

<https://zoom.us/j/296994616>

Meeting ID: 296 994 616

By phone: Dial +1 312 626 6799. Enter meeting ID

I will continue to mail out home worship resources to those not online.

Helping others

How can we still be church for the sake of the world when we can't really go out . For one thing, realize that staying home as much as possible is doing something to help. If you've got ideas, post something on Facebook or send me a note, but here are some possibilities:

- Order take-out food from places you've frequented and tip extra
- Pay for services like cleaning, hair stylists, etc, even if they can't work
- If you're not in a high risk group, volunteer to deliver meals, help at People's City Mission, or other organization, offer to shop for someone who shouldn't be going out at all
- Stay connected with neighbors...the church has some funds to help people who are hit hard, and we can beef them up if needed. We've also got people who could shop, etc. Let me know if you know someone in need
- Share talents—some of the most hopeful things on social media are musicians, artists, gardeners, dancers, photographers sharing their work (amateur or professional) for the sake of lifting the spirits of others.
- Call or write someone who might be especially lonely or isolated

April Calendar

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| April 5 | 10:00 am—Zoom Worship— Palms will be available at the church for pickup Thursday through Sunday morning |
| April 9 | 6:30 pm—Maundy Thursday reflection—this will be live, either on Facebook or YouTube. Instructions for tuning in will come by email and on Facebook page |
| April 10 | 6:30 pm—Zoom Worship for Good Friday |
| April 12 | 10:00 pm—Easter—Zoom Worship |
- After that I plan to continue with some sort of weekly reflection on Facebook Live Wednesday evenings, and worship via Zoom will continue Sundays at 10:00 am

Giving Options

Although the congregation is healthy financially, two months is a long time to go without any income, as many people and organizations are of course experiencing.

First of all, if you are taking an economic hit from all this, don't worry about your church offering for right now.

If you are able to keep up with your giving, here are two ways to do it:

Church offerings can be mailed to:

Mike Unverferth

2800 W. Branched Oak Rd.

Raymond, NE 68428

If you would like to donate online, we have set up accounts for both churches with tith.ly. To donate from the app, install *tithe.ly* on your phone or tablet and follow the instructions to set up your account. Then search for Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Here's the logo so you get the right one:



It can also be done from a computer by going to tithe.ly and clicking on the give online button. Then search for Bethlehem Lutheran Church