



Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church  
899 Salem Road  
Selinsgrove, Pa 17870

April 1, 2020

Dear Salem Family,

So much has changed since the last time we have gathered together in person for worship. Sometimes it seems like things are changing so quickly that it's hard to keep up. It is in times like this that I am reminded of the Psalms. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountain shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, through the mountains tremble with its tumult." (Psalm 46:1-3) I am reminded that no matter what, God is always faithful and always present with us.

This Sunday begins the week that is the center of the story we proclaim as God's people: Holy week. We begin this weekend with Palm Sunday, as we celebrate with the disciples as Jesus enters Jerusalem. Things will look different this year. And yet in that difference, we find touchpoints of tradition and are reminded that the story remains the same. We might even identify more with the disciples this year – they too were uncertain about the future.

We will gather virtually again this weekend on Sunday morning. You will find the link to our service on both our website and Facebook page. You will also find a brief order of service with the readings, prayers and questions for discussion attached to this letter, if you are not able to join us virtually. Know that we gather together in the Spirit, no matter what!

I also want to share an update with you in regards to our in person worship. Following the recommendations of the CDC and other governmental organizations, we will be extending our cancelation of in person worship and all other activities at least through Easter. These are hard decisions that must be made, but are made out a concern for the health and well-being of our community. The council continues to monitor the situation and make prayerful decisions.

The office at the church continues to be closed, but we are not out of communication. Please reach out to Pastor Stina as needed by email [stinaschaeffer@gmail.com](mailto:stinaschaeffer@gmail.com) or by phone. And until we are together again, "I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers." (Ephesians 1:16)

Blessings,

Pastor Stina