

Pastor/President Congregational letter

September 2020

To members and friends of Our Savior's,

It's been quite the year! Our 2019/2020 ministry year began like most ministry years begin. We kicked off the year with Rally Sunday and a church potluck. Sunday School for all ages began, as did confirmation, our adult small group ministry, women's circles, choir, and many other ministries we hold near and dear to our hearts. Service has long been a hallmark of our congregation, and our local and far reaching endeavors to share the love of Lord began and continued as it normally does. Then the coronavirus hit and things radically changed. No longer were we worshipping together in person, meeting in small groups, holding classes, or allowing our building to be used by outside groups. When the warmer weather of summer arrived various groups met in our parking lot, but even then groups had to adhere to a code of conduct. All in all, it's been quite the year.

There are, however, blessings even in the most challenging of times. Our tithes and offerings have been strong and we're grateful for the extraordinary generosity of our membership. Additionally, some in our community called the church to offer financial assistance to keep our food bank well stocked. Church members assisted other church members with shopping, transportation to medical appointments, prayer, and simply checking in with one another. Many staff were eager to work and took upon themselves to pick up duties not normally assigned to them. We created a new platform for worship and held meetings online. As a congregation we learned new methods of ministry and adopted a form of leadership that meets our present situation.

As we look to the 2020/2021 ministry year things will continue to be different. In-house worship is still a ways off, but when we do gather again our worship will not be the same as it has been. Our hope is to eventually provide three worship formats – in-house live worship, streaming our live worship, and continuing with an on-line worship service.

For the past number of months your council has been meeting online. The church recently opened a Zoom account which we're hoping to make available for our members' use. While a few details still need to be finalized we should have this fully functional by the end of September.

The Personnel Committee has analyzed our staffing needs for the coming year. After much prayer and conversation it was recommended to council that we eliminate three positions. The council accepted the recommendation to eliminate the Admin Assistant, the Youth Intern, and the Nursery Care positions.

It has been an extraordinary year with changes unlike anything any of us have experienced. But one constant has been the faithfulness of God. God always promised to be with us and we've heard many stories of people who have felt God's presence. Our house has been rocked, but our foundation is strong and for that we give thanks.

To the Glory of God,

Pastor Kim

Ben Panning, President

Diane Dahlin, Vice President

Carol Nordahl, Treasurer and Secretary