

Tuesday, April 7, 2020

Brothers and sisters,

As we approach the holiest days on the church year calendar, things are strangely different this year. Last year about 70% of our members attended at least one of the worship services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday or Easter Sunday. This year the doors will be shut. We will not gather together in the sanctuary to confess and remember, to sing and rejoice. Instead we will have to do that privately in our homes, either alone or with our immediate family, with a printed message in our hand or else gathered around a computer or television screen. But the message you hear from us will still be the same – the same sacrifice of Christ for the sins of the world, the same triumphant resurrection, the same assurances of forgiveness and love, of peace, comfort and eternal life.

- 1) The **Good Friday** service will be live-streamed at approx. 1:00pm on Friday, April 10. Immediately after the service it will be posted on our webpage.
- 2) **Easter Sunday's** service will be recorded and posted to the webpage sometime Saturday evening, April 11.
- 3) In addition, WELS will be offering an opportunity for our entire synod to gather online for a special Easter Sunday evening service to be broadcast from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary at 6 p.m. (central). You can watch it at <https://livestream.com/wslive/togetherattheemptytomb> .

For those desiring to receive the **Lord's Supper** we are inviting members to come on **Thursday** from 4:00 – 7:00pm or **Saturday** from 9:00am – 1:00pm. We will have a brief devotion, prayer and the Sacrament in groups of up to seven people every half hour (4, 4:30, 5, 5:30, etc.). Please call ahead or email us at woodlawnlutheran@gmail.com so we know which time you would be coming so we don't have more than 7 at a time. If you feel uncomfortable about gathering with others or cannot come during these selected times, we can meet privately as well. We will do our best to accommodate you. Of course, if you are not feeling well, please stay home until you are better.

This past week we received nearly 100% of what is needed to support our ministry here at Woodlawn and for that we are thankful to the Lord. We also received numerous donations of money and non-perishable food items (dropped off at church) for the food pantry. Again, to make your contribution on line, including to the food pantry, just press the green "Donate Now" button on the church webpage <woodlawnlutheran.org>. You can also mail your offerings to the church or drop them off between 9:00 and 4:00 weekdays.

As always, remember to keep bringing your prayers, petitions and thanksgiving to the Lord. Be sure to include our shut-ins, many of whom are dealing with isolation. Pray for our Lamb of God School – teachers, students and families – as they work together to continue the Christ-centered education that is vital to our church. And pray that our God of grace would bring our current health crisis to a speedy end.

Unless something urgent comes up to change our plans, the next update won't come out until early next week. May the blessings of Christ's death and resurrection be with all of you!

Pastor Kneser and Pastor Wessel