



Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

April 15, 2020

Easter greetings. Christ is risen! Peace be with you.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Temple authorities, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ~ John 20:19

Synod staff "visited" so many of your congregations on Easter, and were overwhelmed with your grace and creativity. Thank you for your adaptive leadership in a new and rapidly changing context.

My strongest recommendation for you this week is to rest. Holy Week is challenging enough under normal circumstances. This year, in the middle of a pandemic, we are all also learning how to have worship online. This is a marathon, so be sure to take time for self care and to rest. As a reminder, we have sermons available for you to use Easter 2, 3, and 4 [HERE](#).

With joy, I share with you that Rudy Flores (seminary intern, currently at Kinsmen) and Pastor Don Carlson (retired) are home from the hospital. Thank you for your prayers.

We are fortunate that at this time, we have no confirmed COVID-19 cases among our pastors or deacons.

Computer models suggest we will not peak for a couple more weeks. We haven't hit the top of the bell curve. Even when confirmed cases start to drop, we probably won't be meeting in person for a while. When we do come back together, we will certainly be practicing social distancing in ways that will change how we worship together. At that time we will have specific recommendations for you.

On the Sunday after Easter, Jesus' followers were sequestered at home. Jesus walked through those locked doors of fear and offered them a word of peace and hope. My prayers are with you as you continue to offer words of peace and hope to your people.

Peace be with you,

Michael Rinehart, bishop
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