

April 7, 2020

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP CALENDAR UPDATES: ALL First Lutheran public worship services have been canceled through the month of April.

With the federal guidelines of social distancing extended through the month of April, I will extend my weekly contacts to members for a few more weeks. For sake of variety, I will alternate between phone calls and emails.

Here are some other timely announcements that I'd like to pass along to you:

- 1) I will continue to offer the opportunity for members to receive the Lord's Supper on **Wednesday** morning's; from 10:00 am to 10:30am.
- 2) *Meditation sessions at the church are cancelled.*
- 3) Check the church's website, firstlutheranprescott.org, for The Home Worship Guides as well as announcements. Copies of the Home Worship Guides are also available at the church on the table by Pastor's office.
- 4) *Go to Prescott Media Center for live streamed messages from Pastor Rothe.*
- 5) Cable Channel 64 will air taped programs from First Lutheran at the usual times of 5:30 pm on Mondays and at 8:30 am on Tuesdays.
- 6) ***Synod President, Mark Schroeder, will live stream an Easter message on Sunday at 4:00 pm. Just go to wels.net to receive the broadcast.***

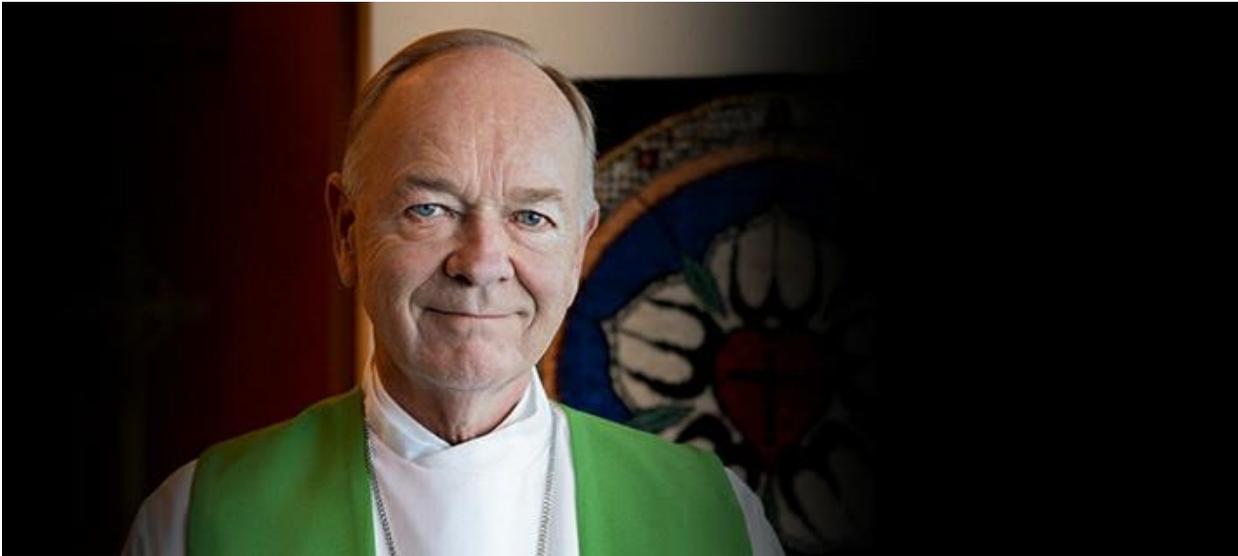
Pastor Rothe is available to assist you in whatever way possible. You can contact him via phone – 928-445-2807 or 928-420-2097, text message – 928-420-2097, and/or email – rothet@cableone.net. May the Lord's continued blessings be with you all!

ONLINE SERVICE VIDEOS: Grace Lutheran in Tucson offers video recordings of its latest services, both Sundays and midweek. To access these, go to their website (<https://www.gracelutheransaz.org>), select the Watch and Listen tab, and choose the Service Videos link. There are other options from this list that may be useful to you. Thank you to Barb Stuhr for bringing this service to our attention. Other sources for live streaming may be found by Googling "WELS Live Streamed Sunday Service" and researching the links for one that suits you.

COVID19 PRAYER: Lord God, our Redeemer and Protector, we come to you seeking the help that only you can give. We ask that you spare people in our country and around the world from any harm to body and soul. Grant healing and comfort to those who may be afflicted with this or any other disease. Be with those who care for the sick and keep them from danger. Give wisdom and steadfastness to our nation's leaders and a spirit of courage and cooperation to our communities. Calm our fears of the unknown. Use your Word to work in us a strong faith and trust in your promise to use all things to work for the good of those who love you. We can be confident in you and your promises in this uncertain and difficult time because of the love and faithfulness you demonstrated in sending your Son to the cross for us and for all people. Help us to keep our eyes fixed on you, our Refuge and Strength. Amen.

Synodwide Holy Week messages

WELS -- March 31, 2020



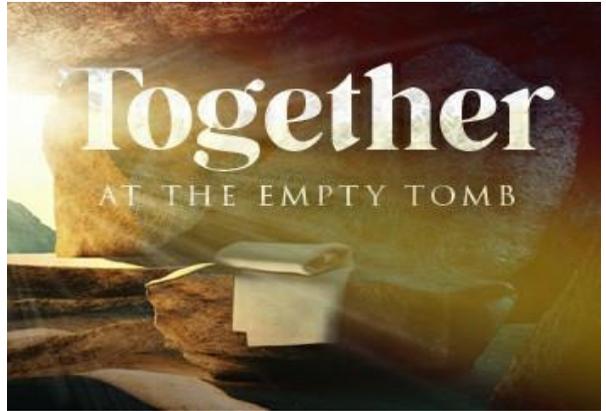
Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Many congregations throughout the synod have been, or soon will be, forced to find alternative ways to gather around God's Word. My wife and I have already spent two Sundays worshiping at home via the online worship provided by my congregation. I'm gratified that so many congregations have moved so quickly to continue to serve their members with the comfort and guidance of the Scriptures.

This Sunday evening, Palm Sunday, I will be delivering a brief message to the members of our synod in an online video broadcast. The message will be broadcast live at 6:00 p.m. (central). I invite you to access that message **live online**. I look forward to speaking with you. If you are not able to view the video when it is broadcast live, it will be archived online.

A week later, we will be celebrating our Savior's resurrection on Easter Sunday. Our Easter Sunday worship will be different than any we have ever experienced. Most likely you will gather "virtually" with members of your congregation (or that of another congregation) to gaze at the empty tomb and praise God for what he has done for us.

Not to replace your Easter morning worship, but to supplement it, we 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). We will gather as one family of believers, from across the country and around the world, not only to celebrate our Savior's Easter victory but also to express our unity of faith and mission as members of the Wisconsin Synod. The theme of the service will be, "Together at the Empty Tomb." Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary President Earle Treptow will deliver the Easter message. A small choir, along with a few instruments, will enhance the worship with music and songs of praise. I'm thankful to Pastor Jon Hein, coordinator of WELS Congregational Services, for planning and coordinating this event. I look forward to being with you for this special Easter celebration. You can watch it **live online**. Stay online after the service for a live Q&A session hosted by President Treptow and Rev. Hein, where viewers can ask questions.

Elsewhere in this issue of *Together*, you will find information and resources that we have gathered to help congregations begin to make use of the CARES Act. This information, as well as the information provided on the [synod website](#), will be continuously updated whenever anything new develops.

One other important item: President Mark Zarling of Martin Luther College has been diagnosed with the COVID-19 virus and has been hospitalized in Mankato, Minn.

Please join me in approaching the throne of grace, fervently asking God to keep President Zarling and all those afflicted by this worldwide pandemic in his loving care and to grant them a full recovery. Our times, as well as President Zarling's, are in God's hands—no better place to be.

Serving with you in Christ,

WELS President Mark Schroeder



ADDENDUM: At the last report, President Zarling is now recovering at home. Praise the Lord for His mercy!

