

WINDS OF THE SPIRIT

Nordland Lutheran Church | Paynesville, Minnesota | May 2020

We are Easter people!

Needless to say, this has been an extraordinary time. We have now been immersed in this pandemic era for a number of weeks without the certainty of when the end will come. Know that myself, our council, and your Nordland community are lifting you all up in prayer and loving you in this time of physical distance. As your pastor, I miss you all. I miss gathering together for worship, fellowship, service, and just all around being together. And I know you miss this community as well.

The council will continue to follow guidelines of the state of Minnesota, health experts, and our synod on discerning how and when will be a good and safe time for us to re-gather for worship and other gatherings. This will be not be a quick process, and will not be something we will rush into lightly and without thoughtfulness to the safety and wellbeing of our faith community and beyond.

As time goes on, it becomes more and more difficult for some to make ends meet, struggling through the challenges of being without 'normal' routine, work, school life, visiting friends and family, and enjoying all that life has to offer that we once knew. My encouragement to you is to

allow yourself and others a lot of grace in this time. Be good and kind to yourself and others. Hold each other close, even from a safe distance.

If you would like to have a prayer together, have a prayer concern or prayer of joy you would like to share, or just want to have a conversation about the weather, about how your kids are making you laugh, or about how the fish are biting (opener is soon!), please give me a call or email. I would love to talk, hear your stories, and pray with you if you would like. Also, if you would like to be a part of our prayer chain, let me know. We continue to hold many in our prayers during this time.



My friends, we are an Easter people. We are people of the resurrection. We believe in a God who is about death and resurrection. God always has been, and always will be, about bringing life out of death. Bringing new life out of the places in our lives and the world where there is death and despair. Yes, there will be plenty of challenges yet ahead of us, but we trust that God will use this time and us to bring healing and hope to the world. Even if we are aren't together, we are still the Church. And remember always, God is with us!

Grace and peace to all of you.

Pastor Mark