



# Hope Lutheran Church of Warren

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Praise the Lord, people of Hope!

It seems an unusual way to open a letter in this time, but still it is appropriate. As you hear in the Divine Service, "It is truly good, right and salutary that we should in ALL time and in ALL places give thanks to our Holy Lord."

So how are we going to do that? As you may know, the CDC has now asked that no gatherings over 50 people take place. We want to respect the civil authorities and we want to keep you safe. So once again we are going to adapt, and through the Word of God, overcome.

So what are we going to do? We will take advantage of the technology that the Lord has provided us.

1. This Wednesday our Lent sermon will be posted online. You will find it on my Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/dan.howard.7524?ref=name#>; the church Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/hopelutheranchurchwarren>; and on our vimeo page (where you will find quite a few Bible Studies as well).
2. Starting this weekend we will livestream service at 9 am. We ask you to attend this in place of attending the service physically.
3. If you desire communion, it will be available at the chapel entrance from 10 am until 1 pm. The Sunday morning Bible study on the Book of Revelation will be suspended until we once again can gather in person.
4. But that is not to say that there will not be a Bible Study. I will be posting a small reading on my Facebook page every morning. It will be reposted on the Hope Facebook page as well. We will be looking at the book of Luke, and I encourage conversation!
5. On Wednesdays at 11 am, Steve Gauss, Amanda Morris and I will be hosting a chapel aimed specifically at those of you who have found yourself in a homeschool situation with the cancellation of classes.
6. As we move forward, we will shift many of our resources to online meetings. If you are a team leader, we want you to know the church has set up a Zoom digital meeting room that is available for use.
7. This leads me to a subject that every pastor hates talking about: money. Going digital removes the Sunday offering, and cuts us off from the funds that we use for operations. If you have not yet set up an e-pay account, I ask you to please consider it. The easiest way would be through the GIVEPLUS app available on all smart phones, but you can also do it through our website.

We want to be here for you. We want to meet your needs. If you have a special request or an emergency pops up, please let us know. We are each precious in the eyes of the Lord. Let us treat each other that way.

In this time it is easy to withdraw, to break routine and forget to pray, to read Scripture and to forsake relationships. Reach out to each other. Hebrews 10:25-27 (ESV) warns us:

*Don't stop meeting together with other believers, which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encourage each other, especially as you see the day drawing near.*

We are blessed to be living in a time when we are able to do that and still honor our civil obligations. More than anything, my friends, I encourage you not to fear.

*When the cares of my heart are many, your consolations cheer my soul. – Psalm 94:19 (ESV)*

God is with His people, Praise the Lord!

- Pastor Dan