



Risen Hope

Community Church

'Exalting the God of Hope, Sharing the Hope of God'

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Dear Risen Hope Family,

I am sure that you all are aware of the coronavirus pandemic. The news media has been focused on it for weeks now, and the truth is we live in a broken world where disease and illness are a reality. Conversations with family, neighbors and friends all tend toward what we should be doing to halt the spread of Covid-19 and how we, the public and our public officials, should respond.

But the more important question is how we, as the body of Christ, should respond?

The Random Lake School District has informed us that for the time being we will not be allowed to meet at the high school. If we are able to find other adequate facilities for us to meet, we will; the elders will make every effort to keep you updated and informed. However, we also want to be wise, prudent, and exercise love and concern for all. And so, here are some faith-filled, commonsense measures each of us can do to help others:

- Don't be undone by fear.
- Rest in God's love for you in Christ Jesus.
- Pray for one another.
- Care for one another.
- Refrain from hand-shaking and hugs for a season. Be creative in greeting one another warmly (eye contact, bow, elbow tap, ect.).
- Wash your hands thoroughly and often.
- Use hand sanitizer as needed and available.
- Avoid close contact with others; give space.
- Cover all coughs.
- If you have symptoms, stay home.
- If knowingly exposed, consult with your doctor and follow his/her recommendations (including self-quarantine for 14 days).
- Care for one another.
- Pray for one another.
- Rest in God's love for you in Christ Jesus.
- Don't be undone by fear.

Truly we can rest in God's love for us in Christ Jesus. God's love is perfect. And 1 John 4:18 says: ". . . *perfect love casts out fear.*" Jesus proved his perfect love for us by taking the condemnation and judgment we rightly deserved. So now, because of Christ Jesus and his great love for us demonstrated on the cross, we have peace with God. Unless the Lord Jesus returns, death is inevitable. Life without Christ is a fearful thing. But life in Christ affords us the peace that passes all understanding; our sins are forgiven and our hope of life eternal is secure. So pray, as the Holy Spirit says:

. . . do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
(Philippians 4:6-7)

Pray for your family, neighbors and friends who are without Christ. Pray that God would open their hearts to the truth of the gospel. Pray that they would see in you the hope of Christ, and be ready to explain why you have this hope.

You need not be undone by coronavirus fear. Remember that in Christ you are loved by God.

*God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
² Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,
³ though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling. Selah (Psalm 46:1-3)*

We all at times need to be reminded: God will not forsake us, but he will carry us through whatever we face in this world. So be of good courage; for our sake Jesus has overcome the world.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Steve Wood