



Fountain Grace Trinity Lutheran Parish
226 Erickson Street
Elroy, WI 53929
Phone (608)462-5398
Web Page www.fgtlp.org

Dear Friends,

March 30, 2020

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ who is ever present!

There are a number of examples in scripture where we are told that Jesus went off by himself to pray. **"And after he had dismissed the crowds, he (Jesus) went up the mountain by himself to pray."** (Matthew 14:23) Since we are living at a time when many are being encouraged to stay at home and observe social distancing might we use this time for prayer? In I Timothy 2:1 we read: "First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone."

Who might you pray for: doctors, nurses, other medical staff, truck drivers, food service workers, grocery store employees, parents home schooling their children, bus drivers delivering meals, pastors & chaplains, the sick and the grieving, and many others.

Also remember in your prayers the following from our prayer list: Ann Helmann, Sharon Halverson, Mark Stauffacher, Ron Miller, Nancy Dallman, Charlotte Shore, Madelyn Novacheck, Diane Shore, Gavin Nelson, Bernice Steffen, Clayton Jacobson, Chris Lanners, Harlen & Joni Newlun, Judy Forsythe, Judy Persall, Alan & Carol Leopold, and Danny Olson. Pray for those home bound: Helen Milne, Verna & John Thompson, Frieda Grilley, Dorothy Klipstein, Sylvia Sanders, Evelyn Emrich, Miriam Burdick, Janet Ackerson and Violet Jones. If there are others you wish us to pray for let us know.

Thank you for mailing in your financial gifts to support our ongoing mission of proclaiming the love & grace of Jesus Christ during this time. We are making every effort to keep in touch as a community of faith centered on the promises of Jesus Christ and following the CDC guidelines of practicing social distancing. Some adjustments have been made in staffing hours during this time:

- ***Office manager & bookkeeper** comes in once a week for a few hours on Tuesday morning.
- ***Custodian for Grace** will not be coming in until we are back worshipping.
- ***Pastor Jim & Deacon Karen** are making every effort to follow our current contract (Sunday –Wednesday). We are working at home when possible.

You may have heard that the stay at home declaration from the CDC has been extended through the end of May. We encourage you to make use of the worship and faith enrichment resources that are posted on our web page at www.fgtlp.org Let us remember that the church is not the building the church is the people.

During this time the Spirit of God is finding new ways to bring us together. If you have any ideas of how we can further connect with each other as the people of God and still practice social distancing please share them with us. You can reach us at:

Pastor Jim Gerth cell # 920-660-1516 or james.gerth@yahoo.com
Deacon Karen Gerth cell # 920-660-1518 or karen.gerth@yahoo.com
Parish office phone # (608)462-5398

We are on this journey together and by the help of God we will continue to discover ways to be faithful to the mission God has entrusted to us. Remember the words of the angel on that first Easter morning: "You must not be afraid, the angel said. I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, he has been raised, just as he said. Come here and see the place where he was lying. Go quickly, now and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the death, and now he is going to Galilee ahead of you; there you will see him!' Remember what I have told you." Matthew 28:5-7

Let us pray: By your power, great God, our Lord Jesus heal the sick and gave new hope to the hopeless. Though we cannot command or possess your power, we pray for those who want to be healed. Mead their wounds, soothe fevered brows, and make broken people whole again. Help us to welcome every healing as a sign that, though death is against us, you are for us, and have promised renewed and risen life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen (ELW page 84)

Let us remember that Jesus is ever present!
Pastor Jim & Deacon Karen Gerth

