



April 1, 2020

Greetings Lettered Streets Covenant Family on this April 1st!

Hopefully you have survived the April fools pranks, and maybe had some good laughs along the way.

I also hope you're finding some ways to blow off steam and grow into some healthy rhythms of life as the shock of sheltering in place is now becoming the new normal.

One constructive way of both expressing your feeling and finding mutual support is through a private facebook page Elizabeth set up for our congregation.

We are still working out the kinks, but if you have a facebook account and would like to be part of the private page simply email [Elizabeth Holland](mailto:Elizabeth.Holland) and she'll get you set up. Her contact information is listed in the letter below this video.

The purpose of this private page is to have a safe place for our congregation to interact without fear of your posts or videos being made public.

Most recently Morgan Lingbloom set up the Great Quarantine Baking Challenge. Last week was Cake Week and we had lots of creative entries with some delicious looking cakes and some fun videos documenting the process.

My family doesn't do much on social media but during this crisis it's nice to have a private group where we can interact but not have our kids on video all over facebook.

Besides working on the creation of interactive, safe spaces for our church to interact, our staff has been hard at work both curating resources for worship and discipleship at home and trying to stay connected with all of you.

Lettered Streets Covenant Church

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Christy Wilson continues to coordinate Zoom sessions with our youth group both for social connection and Bible study. Even from home, the kids are being encouraged to write cards and letters to people all around town. Maybe you've been the recipient of one.

Just today Jen Milsten released another great resource for children's ministry including a [family devotional for Palms Sunday plan to practice a family foot washing on Maundy Thursday](#).

Morgan and I have been reaching out to the greater community to see how our church might help in this time of crisis.

Right now we are most effective in financially supporting those who are on the front lines and authorized by the state to offer in-person assistance. This last Sunday we invested \$750 to support the heroic work of the Lighthouse Mission. They have moved their operation over to Bellingham High School in an unprecedented partnership between Bellingham Schools and the Mission. This enables them to keep housing people but at safe, 6-ft distances between guests.

This coming Sunday we'll be investing money in the Bellingham School District Family Resource center that helps some of our most vulnerable children and families receive basic supplies from food and personal hygiene items to mental health and financial and legal assistance.

We are blessed to be part of this community. And we are blessed to have such a forward thinking and faithful leadership team who are wisely looking at financial realities while also practicing generosity and trusting that the God we serve, is a God of abundance.

In closing, I'd like to invite you to participate in worship this Sunday.

Last week I encouraged you to send me your signs of spring—whether photos, drawings, poems, or reflections. I then displayed those signs of spring during our home worship video.

This week is Palm Sunday and I think it stings a little bit more to not be together under one roof in worship. So here's what I'm thinking:

The Scripture reading for Palm Sunday will be Matthew 21.1-11 this year. It would be cool if you sent in a video of you and/or your family, roommates, kids—reading the passage. If you get it to me by Saturday at noon, I'll work on splicing it up so we get our church family all participating in the reading for Sunday.

Bless you!

Chris

### **What LSCC Leadership Is Doing**

- The staff will continue produce worship resources for each Sunday including things like: a sermon podcast, a liturgy containing prayers, songs, readings, and children's activities. We will make this available **by 10am on Sunday** on our website. We'll also send the link via email.
- Christy Wilson facilitated Zoom meeting with the youth and will continue to help the kids virtually.
- Elizabeth continues to build ways for us to connect online. Please contact her [HERE](#) if you would like to be added to the private facebook group.
- [Jen Milsten](#) continues to curate resources for children and families to continue to grow and worship at home.
- [Morgan](#) is helping us think creatively about ways we may serve the community and will act as a service volunteer coordinator should opportunities arise.
- [Morgan](#) is also coordinating care within our congregation. If you need help, or even someone to make a grocery store run, please contact Morgan.

- If you have prayer requests, please submit those [HERE](#).
- If you would like to set up a time to talk with pastor Chris, contact him directly [HERE](#).
- The Lead Team continues their work of prayer, guidance, and operations of the organizational side of the church. They are also committed to reaching out to everyone in the church once a week via phone, text, email, or snail mail. No one walks alone!

Please take a moment to consider some ways we can be good neighbors to one another and to our surrounding community:

### **What You Can Do**

- Pray! Someone once said, “The difference between worrying and praying is who it’s addressed to.” Let’s take our fears and anxieties to the Lord! And let’s cover our community, especially the vulnerable and those serving them.
- Stay home unless you are employed in essential services or must go out for supplies or well isolated outings for physical and mental health.
- [Stay in contact](#). If you’re not feeling well (physically, emotionally, mentally) and are isolated at home, the staff wants to know so we can best care for you!
- Be sure to have bread or crackers and grape juice or wine on hand for Communion.
- Consider shooting a video of you reading Matthew 21.1-11 and submitting it to: [info@letteredstreetscc.com](mailto:info@letteredstreetscc.com).
- Write cards to encourage the staff of the LH Mission, Food Bank, Hospital, WTA, or other frontline agencies. Thank your grocery clerk or take out delivery person.
- Watch out for each other. Check in with people. Write cards, make calls or send texts.
- Continue to give of your tithes and offerings as an act of worship and in support of the ministry of the church and the community by mailing a check to P.O. Box 5645 Bellingham, WA 98227 or by giving online, [HERE](#).

[Archive of LSCC responses to COVID-19](#)

