



April 22, 2020

Greetings Lettered Streets Covenant Family!

Today marks five weeks since Governor Inslee's shelter in place order was put into effect and over five weeks since we have taken physical distancing precautions as a church. It has been a long five weeks and unfortunately it will likely be many more weeks until we can think about safely gathering even in small groups again. At least we're getting better at Zoom and getting some fantastic backgrounds to distract our friends while we're supposed to be having productive meetings online!

I know many of you are experiencing added stress and grief. Students are missing friends, teachers, and significant milestone moments. Teachers are missing their kids and colleagues. Some are experiencing loneliness and fear. Others are experiencing loss of wages and having to make hard decisions about their businesses and work. Many in the congregation haven't lost hours at work, but their work has become increasingly dangerous by risking exposure to the virus every patient they encounter, every customer they serve, every day they venture out. And mixed into all of this as if pushed to the sideline by Coronavirus headlines, are the significant life struggles that would have hit us regardless—pandemic or no pandemic: relationship stress, fights with addiction, spiritual apathy, disappointment, and pain.

This Sunday we are paying special attention to the fact that everyone is longing for healing both of our personal situations and healing for the world. Since it is a fourth Sunday, and traditionally we've done a healing prayer service on fourth Sundays—we are going to have a different sort of worship experience for you to participate in. We are going to have a service of scripture, song, and prayer with contributions from a variety of sources within our own congregation. My hope is that as you see the faces of those who love you, and as you are invited to sing together and pray for what ails, you will encounter the healing presence of Jesus and the encouragement of the church.

Lettered Streets Covenant Church

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As a final thought I want to leave you with some encouragement. It's in hard times like these that our character is exposed; it's true of individuals and it's true of churches. I'm so proud of how you are responding in the midst of hardship.

First, I'm encouraged that people are facing some of their character flaws with humility and courage by admitting their limits and seeking God, if even with the faith of a mustard seed. That takes guts and vulnerability.

Second, I am seeing people reaching out and checking in with each other. I am seeing on a daily basis, people meeting the needs of neighbors and friends, and complete strangers. I see acts of love and compassion and creativity in how we are caring for one another and those in our community. It makes me proud to be part of this church community and I pray that the Lord would continue to work in and through us as we follow him with humility and courage.

May the peace of Christ be with you,

Chris

## **Announcements and Updates**

- Keep an eye out for home worship resources to be released **by 10am on Sunday** on our [website](#). We'll also send the link via email each Sunday morning.
- 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.
- [Morgan](#) is 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](#).
- If you need financial help during this crisis please contact our Lead Team Chair, [Ryan Wasserman](#) or pastor [Chris](#).

## **What You Can Do**

- Pray! We are seeing sick people recovering, anxious people finding deeper peace, and protection for our front line workers. Please continue to lift them, and each other, up in prayer!
- 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.
- 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](#).
  - Last week we supported some of our local school counselors by giving them resources to distribute directly to families in need. This week we are highlighting the art of neighboring by thinking creatively about how LSCC can support you in caring for your neighbors. Stay tuned for an interview with Nicole Burdick in the worship materials this Sunday.

## **[Archive of LSCC COVID-19 Updates](#)**