Subject: State of the Church

Dear Church Family,

Rev 21:3 “He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them.”

Getting adjusted to the new normal in the life of St Luke Union Church has taken some time and I hope it will not persist much longer. Through our prayers and the hand of God, we will see through this pandemic and be gathered together in coming days. Know that God’s grace rests on you to continue to share and care for one another.

I want to first thank everyone who has continued to give offerings and meet pledge commitments. It is our wish to continue to pay our staff during this time of social isolation, while also meeting our mission and operational obligations. To date David, Lisa, and I have been working to keep all of us connected through various means. This includes virtual worship, Facebook postings, phone calls, cards, and our share and care program. Our custodian, Juan, is systematically going through our church building, disinfecting and deep cleaning. Just this week, he completed shampooing all our chairs and pew covers. This will help to make all more comfortable when we are able to return to regular church operation.

The Vision and Ministry Council met this past Tuesday via Zoom (online video conference call) at the regularly scheduled time. I gave the Council an update on what was taking place at the church and the financial needs and obligations to date. There was a lengthy discussion of whether to apply for an SBA small business loan that would be available as part of the stimulus package passed as a result of the pandemic. One of the requirements is that the loan is needed for the future operation of the church. At the end of the first quarter, the church was $1,815 under budget in income and $1,864 over budget on the expense side for a total deficit of $3,679. As you may recall the budget for this year as presented at the annual meeting showed that $11,950 of carried forward giving from reserves was planned to be used to balance this year’s budget. Thus the council felt that at this time the church did not need to apply for a federal loan in good conscience, as the church did not meet the need requirement. The Council does plan to continue to watch the church finances and to reevaluate this program in the coming weeks, but feel we need to place our trust in God and the plan He has for Christ’s church.

On the first Easter, the disciples hid themselves away in a room faraway those who might have caused them harm, just as we are hidden away today. When they realized Jesus was with them, they left the room and headed out to plant His church. A church that has been with us for 2000 years, a church that will be with us until the end. We will soon be released into the world. Let’s continue to carry the Word.

Please reach out to the staff or me if you are in need of anything.

Peace,
Pastor Andy