

September 11, 2020

Dear Emmaus Lutheran members and friends,

Today marks the 19th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attack on U.S. soil. This is an event that will never be forgotten. Nor will the lives lost that day and the days following be forgotten. May God grant grace and peace to the many, many who lost loved ones and who still suffer that loss 19 years later.

There are many kinds of loss that affect us – personally, congregationally, locally, nationally and globally. We should be concerned about the struggles that go on each and every day. There are countless stories of tragedy and suffering that have to do with the COVID-19 separation, social unrest of various and serious kinds, major health issues and loss of life.

As a community of faith, we must pray. We must be consumed with concern for our sisters and brothers of every walk of life. We must recognize hatred and live in opposition to hatred of all kinds. We must love one another with the love of Jesus.

We have all been missing the strength and support that our weekly gatherings for worship provide. The parking lot services have served a much-needed purpose – and will continue to be offered for those who desire to gather without the risks of in-person worship. We will continue to record the Saturday service and post it weekly on the Emmaus Facebook page and with a link to YouTube from the Emmaus web-site.

A task force has been hard at work to plan for a return to in-person worship on Sunday, September 27th, at 10 a.m. The service will be shorter than our former services of worship. There will be no congregational singing at first. Communion will be administered in a similar manner as our parking lot worship.

Each of you should make your own best decision about returning to church for in-person worship. For some of you, the time to come again may be right away. For others, the right time is still months away. If your health is compromised in any way, I ask you to err on the side of caution and continue to join us in the parking lot or on your computer, tablet or smart phone in the comfort and safety of your own home.

An adjustment will need to be made with the Adult Bible Study (Zoom). I will let you know what that change is when we make that decision.

In the meantime, know that you are prayed for daily, loved with the love of Jesus, and missed deeply from my heart.

Grace upon grace,
~Pastor Mark