



Dear St. John's Community,

Since we will not be able to gather in the sanctuary for Holy Week and Easter worship due to the continued shelter at home declaration by Gov. Gavin Newsom, here's an update on worship plans and changes in some of our traditional activities:

**Special Worship Podcasts** – Please join us for a Maundy Thursday message, the 7 Last Words of Jesus on Good Friday, and an opportunity for Holy Communion on Easter – all with music by Magic. Invite others to participate, too. Access the podcast at <https://stjohnsantioch.org/>

**Holy Communion** – After our Lent fast, we will now offer the Eucharist as part of the worship podcast beginning Easter Sunday. It is our Lutheran understanding that in Holy Communion Christ is present with us and the whole communion of saints — past, present and future! We understand a sacrament as something Christ commanded that includes the word spoken, an earthly element (bread and wine) and the community gathered. We trust that Christ is indeed present with us and all the faithful as we gather virtually during this time of sheltering at home.

After a Zoom conference with synod clergy last week, Bishop Mark Holmerud said he neither encourages nor discourages virtual communion during these extraordinary times; he does call for an end to sharing the Eucharist this way once we can worship face to face.

If you would like to join in Holy Communion on Easter Sunday and beyond, you will need to gather some bread, tortillas or crackers and wine or juice before you begin the worship podcast. I will say the words of institution and you can receive the elements before you. May our obedience to Christ's command to "*do this and remember me*" be pleasing to God!

**Lent Offerings** – You are invited to continue to contribute to your "ELCA World Hunger 40 Days of Giving" jars at home, and whenever we are together again we will receive them and donate them to ELCA World Hunger.

**Regular Tithes & Giving** – As your financial position allows, please be sure to mail in your regular giving each week or monthly, or give online at <https://stjohnsantioch.org/giving/> so that St. John's can continue to meet our financial obligations. If you are in need yourself, please contact the church office or Pastor Lori.

**Easter Flowers** – Contact Sherrie Downie if you gave money for Easter flowers and want a refund or to donate the money to St. John's.

In resurrection hope, Pastor Lori

*If you having trouble reading this email on your mobile device, please open the attached document.*

## St. John's Lutheran Church

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*Grow In Faith - Experience Joy - Serve with Compassion*

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