



## The Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer

212 Main St. Foxboro, MA 02035 • (508) 543-4071 • [www.lcor.org](http://www.lcor.org)

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Healer of our every ill, light of each tomorrow,  
Give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.

In the pain and joy beholding how your grace is still unfolding,  
Give us all your vision, God of love.

Healer of our every ill, light of each tomorrow,  
Give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.

- *Healer of Our Every Ill, Marty Haugen (ELW 612)*

During this time of COVID-19 and physical distancing, we're forced to adapt to new realities.

Some of these new realities are temporary inconveniences: before long we will go to the grocery store without fear of what we can't see, we'll gather in groups again for worship, and get to spend time together in person. Not too long from now, we'll be able to get back to some semblance of normal and breathe a sigh of grateful relief for the things we miss.

Some of these new realities will be long-lasting: people will die from this disease, others may change jobs or even face losing their job, and some may suffer financial calamity. For some, this virus and its effects will mean relapse and family issues that go with hard times in unhealthy situations. These new realities and the others that will accompany them will be with us for quite some time.

Not every one of these new realities are bad.

**I believe strongly that God never wastes a crisis**, and as God's people we're called to do the same. In moments of fear and stress, we in this nation tend to come together to love and support each other. We share what we have with strangers and friends alike to help others who go without. The Church is uniquely called for a time such as this, because we who dwell at the foot of the cross are called and commanded to be God's hands and feet, binding up broken hearts and healing the afflictions of our fellow children of God. This call is often heard more loudly and felt more strongly in suffering—our own and others—but it is always there as a faithful heartbeat in our daily lives.

In Divine faithfulness, God is preparing our hearts for the moment of our rising, when we follow the example of the disciples and come out from behind doors previously locked in fear.

COVID-19 will recede and the pandemic *will* end; when it does the world will need us to be the Church, and we will have a deep need to *be* the Church.

I say this to prepare you for the work to come.

For now, rest. Enjoy time with your family (even when they're being annoying). Find ways to normalize this abnormal time by sticking to a routine. Read, pray, and do your self-work. Treat yourself! If you need someone to talk to, I'm always here, as are your brothers and sisters in Christ.

When next we meet in person, God's people in Foxboro will need us.

By God's grace and provision, The Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer will be ready to meet them.

Grace & Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric'.

Pastor Eric