

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This evening, I read a news article from Station KWWL in Iowa, offering a hope-filled message during this Coronavirus pandemic. The article described a joint effort initiated by leaders of Catholic, Anglican, and Protestant churches in the Ministerium of Dubuque. At Eight O'Clock each evening, the churches in Dubuque and other parts of eastern Iowa, are ringing their church bells. Quoting Parson John Emery, the article states, "...the act symbolizes solidarity, not just with Christian traditions, but for everyone who is affected by the outbreak. He hopes the bell ringing becomes a symbol for strength, solidarity, hope and victory."

As we begin our second week away from one another, I would like to encourage each of you to stay close to one another through prayer, phone calls, and electronic means. We know that we cannot be together physically, but we can be together in other ways. By praying for one another, and praying for those in our community, state, country and world, we can begin each new day with hope.

Please know that you **can** continue to worship with your church family from St Paul's, at home. This can be done by reading the bulletin and sermon that was electronically sent to you, either alone or with other family members who are living with you. Furthermore, you can engage in worship by watching services streamed by one of the other churches in the La Crosse Area Synod. The Synod website contains the most up-to-date resources for your use. Please join me in worshipping the one, Triune God, displaying trust in God's grace and love.

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Cathy