

March 2021

Hello Friends,

Greetings in Christ!

This month marks one year since the pandemic began. All of us have experienced something entirely unprecedented. Friends, it's been hard. And honestly, we miss you. We miss our regular Sunday worship together, eating donuts and sipping coffee and making small talk and handwriting nametags before church. We miss scurrying around the sanctuary saying "Peace be with you" and shaking a hand or two, learning a new name or two. We miss eating lunch together, hanging out together, sharing our lives in person, hearing the combined voices of the entire congregation praising God together.

And yet we are so grateful for every one of you. We are grateful that we still have a community, that we have been able to remind each other that we are not alone. We are grateful that we can be a living reminder of the presence of Christ to one another, even if it's through a screen or phone. We are grateful to be able to pray for one another, to share laughter and tears with one another.

And we celebrate the hope that we have in Christ that no matter how dark the darkness may seem. The resurrection gives us the hope that there is no darkness that cannot be pierced with the light of Christ and there is no situation that can not experience new life and resurrection.

It does seem that there is an end in sight. Recently President Biden announced the intent to have vaccines available to every American adult who wants to receive it by the end of May. Governor Whitmer also recently announced relaxation of restrictions for just about every kind of public and private gathering (though restrictions are still in place).

LGM's leadership team meets regularly to discuss how we can proceed in these unprecedented circumstances. Although we cannot announce a concrete plan for reopening LGM to in-person meetings, we are working on a plan. I cannot make promises obviously since the situation may change, but right now the number of COVID cases in Michigan has continued to decrease. And if that continues, I would anticipate we could begin to have limited in-person gatherings on Sundays soon. We will let you know when we know how soon that might be.

Again we thank you for your patience, your prayers, and your faith. There is an end in sight, my friends. We still need to hold on in this current state a little while longer. But when that day comes that we can meet face-to-face--donuts are on me.

We love you.

In Christ,

Rev. Steve Khang (on behalf of the Core Council of Living Grace Ministry)