

## “What Shall We Do?”

In our current epidemic and the world-wide response to Covid-19, “What shall we do?” resonates with me... with us. Grace, “What Shall We Do?”

God speaks of ‘peace beyond understanding.’ Today, it might mean to possess peace when no one can understand why you have any peace at all. God shows us time and time again we are loved, and we were formed to love God and love our neighbors. Peace comes with keeping people safe and edging towards God’s edge — not always being self-protective but thinking of others. We need to be safe AND to care for ourselves and others as God desires for us. So what does that look like?

What can we do in the five areas of Christian expression that we have done since the time of Christ? Here is what I came up with:

**1. Worship.** Until we can physically gather again, a worship bulletin will be offered including the scriptures for that Sunday, and a transcript of my sermon. After I leave you and until you have pastoral leadership in place, I will continue to email my sermons to Diane. The weekly worship services will be emailed, posted on Facebook and on Grace’s website, and snail-mailed to those without computer access. Beginning April 1, I will be leading worship and preaching on-line for Community Presbyterian Church in Grand Rapids. You can view those services on their Facebook page as well as on their You-Tube account: CPCGRMN. My puppets will participate in worship.

**2. Giving.** At this time, the only way we have to keep our ministries alive is to keep giving consistently. Please continue to give generously if you are able. You can mail your offering to: Grace Lutheran Church, 48115 Lake Avenue, McGregor, MN, 55760. Or sign up for direct deposit with Simply Giving. Forms are available at the church or can be mailed to you.

**3. Teaching and Discipleship.** We are looking at starting a Bible study based on the ancient Christian practice of “lectio divina,” or “praying the scriptures.” Participation might be easier than before as we will try an online format. More about this will be in the newsletter.

**4. Praying.** The Prayer Chain is the one Grace ministry that can continue unaffected. Be sure to use them, as well as pray for these prayer giants. Call Carole Holten 218-426-3627, or Bernis Geving 218-768-3813; or text Mary Ann Kult 218-839-0037.

**5. Service.** Start with looking towards our neighbors, sharing our willingness to care for them and inviting them to attend worship through our Facebook account and website. Call members and others whom we know live alone to check in, to pray with them. Offer to deliver groceries, medicine, or whatever they need. Just listen when they express fear or any other emotion. The peace that passes understanding right now means to hold on to the peace that is promised, not the peace that we might not feel.

I hope these small steps help you in this time of extreme change while following a God who is unchanging. Let’s offer each other grace to know we are all doing the best we can with what we’ve got right now, and that we are still and always God’s beloved. I thank God for you in this time of challenge.

Peace,

Pastor Cheryl and your Church Council