

Dear Faith Family,

I woke up knowing that today I needed to have letter #29 ready to send. What came to me in my sadness was this prayer/hymn: “ God, when we suffer all that we can bear, then let us know that you in truth are near and will not leave us lost in all our fear. Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord, grant us peace.”

Today, Tuesday, I am ringing the bell a day late; I was caught up in a ZOOM meeting, practicing for the Elder Speak presentation this Sunday from 4-6 p.m. If you are interested, log on to Ripple Foundation and click on the “join us” button. There are four of us, designated elders, sharing some life experiences.

Sunday worship will be presented by Lutherans Restoring Creation. The texts for Sunday are Jonah 3: 10-4:11; Psalm 145: 1-8; Philippians 1:21-30; and Matthew 20: 1-16. This service comes at a time when creation is crying out for justice. Fires, virus, hurricanes, protests, famine—what next?

Join with friends in the Faith book study: Dear Church, by Pastor Lenny Duncan. Let Lisa Therrell or Margaret Neighbors know you would like to join. Buy the book on your own and read the intro and chapter one. The first meeting is Monday, October 4th at 9 a.m. “See” you there!!

Sunday dessert gatherings are small, but helpful and healing. We will have to consider some changes when the weather makes gathering outside uncomfortable. I am working on ideas for a gathering of our young people—stay tuned. Sunday School materials are on the way; they will tie into the lectionary readings, giving parents and children common ground.

As we embark on another difficult week, I will close with some petitions I have borrowed from a prayer by Nadia Bolz-Weber. Dear Lord, We don’t know to feel less tired. We don’t know how to quiet our fears. We don’t know how to live through a global pandemic. So, dear Lord, remind us of the millions of acts of kindness and love that go unreported. Make us instruments of your love, bringers of your peace. In Jesus name, AMEN

Love to you all, Pastor Nancy