



June 2, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

1. **Prayer.** Please pray the prayer that Pastor Ken has written for us to pray in light of the events of recent days:
O God of Power, Peace, and Reconciliation, watch over our city tonight and in the days ahead. Bring peace to our streets, to all the cities of our country, and especially to the hearts of our people. Heal wounds of body and spirit, correct injustice, and protect people's livelihoods, their right to free speech, and legitimate police activity. As we have just celebrated the outpouring of Your Holy Spirit on the first disciples, so pour out Your Spirit on America in this hour of our need. Enable us to find new solutions to festering social problems, and make it possible for people to love their enemies without sacrificing their convictions. We pray in the name of Jesus, who died for the sins of the world and who rose to show Your power over all things. Amen.
2. **Pentecost.** Last Sunday on Pentecost Sunday, we at Palisades Lutheran Church celebrated 50 years together as a merged congregation of the Lutheran Church of the Palisades and Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Sunday's Gospel reminds us that Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to believers: *"Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them. By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive"* (John 7: 38-39). While we believe that the Holy Spirit resides in the heart of each believer, on Pentecost, God emphasized the importance of the church—the body of believers who are Jesus' representatives in the world. The streams of living water are the Holy Spirit flowing through each of us individually and as a corporate body. Even now, in the midst of a once-in-a-century pandemic followed by the civil unrest of recent days, the Spirit is flowing through us in many ways that just a few months ago we couldn't have imagined.
3. **Pastor.** We were blessed with a transitional pastor in Ken Frese at just the right time. The Spirit led Pastor Frese to us when we needed him most, and he was exactly the right person for the job at exactly the right time. The Holy Spirit's timing is always perfect. Pastor Frese has led many congregations in transition, he is an experienced community emergency planner and facilitator, he knows and loves our congregation, he has led us in unprecedented creative and inspirational ways, delivers amazing messages, and is committed to our success. He has spent hundreds of uncompensated hours in meetings, sermon and other message preparation, prayer and worship preparation, office hours and management tasks, and in creative thinking-- all with the goal of carrying out the work of the Spirit at PLC. He has inspired PLC to become an Outpost of Hope, and has encouraged each of our homes to be outposts of hope in the community. What a blessing!

4. **Plan.** We will continue our online services through the month of June while the church leaders continue to pay close attention to the changing state and local public health guidelines applicable to houses of worship. One idea being considered is opening with outdoor services on the patio area in July with social distancing, mask wearing and other restrictions to ensure the safety of all. It is also contemplated that the pre-recorded services will continue to be posted online for those who are unable to attend church.
5. **People.** The Spirit is flowing through people at PLC in unprecedented ways:
 - **Online services:** We have a small but highly talented and committed cadre of folks who have produced the most professional online Sunday services on the Westside. We have been blessed by Pastor Ken's worship planning and messages, Denisa Hanna's music planning, our welcomers, readers, musicians and singers, and our website and videography specialists extraordinaire-- Joe Ramirez and Danny Cymbal.
 - **Leadership:** PLC was blessed with a strong leadership team who rallied at the drop of a hat on March 14th to cancel the March 15th service, and to produce weekly online services beginning March 22. Your leaders met via conference call three times a week for 7 weeks, and now meet once a week via Zoom to address the myriad of issues and challenges presented by the pandemic.
 - **Mission.** The Outreach Team has been asked to take the lead in locating local churches in need and is in the process of working with LCMC and LCMS district managers to identify a church or church in need that we can partner with in the coming months. The Team will report their progress on this issue to the Council by mid-June.
 - **Small groups:** The Outreach Team has worked to present you with the following summary of new and continuing small groups in the congregation. We welcome your input to form new small groups based around a spiritual or fellowship goal. How about a Dinner Club with the goal of hosting each other for dinner in our homes post pandemic? Email your ideas and interests to the Outreach Team: (Outreach@plc.cc).

Name/Descriptor	Subject	Who	When	Where	Contact Person
Sunday Morning Bible Study	Discuss Scriptures for that day's worship	Everyone	Sunday at 9 am	Zoom	Richard Olsen RichardOlsen@plc.cc
Emotional Sobriety	Staying Sober	Everyone	Tuesday at 7 am	Zoom	Michael Burditt MikeBurditt@plc.cc
Wednesday Morning Prayer Breakfast	Pray and study books of the Bible	Everyone	Wednesday At 7:40 am	Conference Call	Pastor R.Z. Meyer RZ@plc.cc
Ears to Hear; Souls to Heal	Productive Faith: How to Share Your Story	Everyone	Wednesday at 10 am or 7 pm	Zoom	Dee Ann Lee DeeAnnLee@plc.cc
Rejoice in Recovery	Faith-based recovery forum	Everyone	To Be Determined	To Be Determined	Joe/Cyndi Ramirez JoeRamirez@plc.cc

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Zoom Saturdays	Faith and Fellowship	Everyone	Saturday at 10:30 am	Zoom	Joe/Cyndi Ramirez JoeRamirez@plc.cc CyndiRamirez@plc.cc

6. **June 7, 2020 Congregational Meeting.** The semi-annual congregational meeting will be conducted at noon on June 7th via Zoom. An emailed invitation with the access details will be sent to PLC members and friends shortly. If you have any questions regarding accessing the meeting, please contact Steven Burkholder (steven@plc.cc).
7. **Parsonage.** Escrow closed on May 28th on the parsonage. The new owners have taken possession and the balance of funds have been transferred to the parsonage account with the plan to purchase a less expensive parsonage when needed.
8. **Stewardship.** PLC's ability to call an intentional interim pastor and eventually a permanent pastor, depends on the sharing of your time, talents, and financial resources. We encourage you to answer the call to serve God at PLC in whatever way you can. We thank all who have made generous one-time contributions, and those who have continued to drop-off, mail, or make regular on-line offerings to PLC during the quarantine shut-down period. Please continue to keep PLC in your prayers and to make your regular contributions by mail or online. You may mail or make your payments on a monthly or quarterly basis instead of weekly, if you prefer, to save effort and postage. **PLC now accepts Zelle donations at donate@plc.cc. Log on to your bank online to use this free service that transfers your donation directly from your bank to our bank instantly and with no fees!**

Moving Forward Together with the Risen and Ascended Christ,

The Council and the Board of Elders