



April 14, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I've heard many people, both younger and older, make the statement:

"I never thought I'd live through something like this."

These are indeed days that I would not have predicted and yet God is not surprised. He who spoke the world into existence continues to be the Lord over this world even though it has been corrupted by sin. He continues to work His good in all things for those who trust in Him.

I've shared with you before my favorite song as a small child. The chorus reads:

God loves a cheerful giver, give it all you've got  
He loves to hear you laughing when you're in an awkward spot  
When the odds add up against you, it's time to stop and sing  
Praise God! To praise Him is a joyous thing

"Awkward spots" and "odds add up against you" seem to be hammered home each evening on the news. Yet I remember that "God loves a cheerful giver" and "He loves to hear you laughing" and we are to "Praise God!" for "To praise Him is a joyous thing".

God loves our laughter and our praise during our trials and tribulations because we are not focused on our problems but on the solution, Jesus Christ. Our joy filled response is a result of our trusting in "He who is able to do exceedingly more than we ask or imagine as He works His power among us."

We acknowledge that there is uncertainty for many people. For you, it may be your employment status, your income level, or possibly even where you may be living if you need to find another job. These are all real problems of this world.

In these challenging times, the body of Christ at St. Michael's is still called to manage the resources God provides so that we can minister to our church family and our community. To do this, we will still create a budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year that starts on July 1. Knowing your intended support in the coming year will help us determine the spending within that budget.

***Will you prayerfully consider your intention to support  
the ministry of St. Michael's for the 2020-2021 fiscal year?***

We ask that after you pray for God's guidance in planning your intended level of financial support for St Michael's ministries, you complete our "Dedication of Generosity" form.

- If you received this letter via email, please click [here](#) to be directed to our online form at our website.
- If you received this letter by mail, please complete the enclosed form and mail it to St Michael's Lutheran Church, 9201 Normandale Blvd, Bloomington, MN 55437.

We need to receive your response between now and Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

I believe strongly that God will use these times to turn the hearts and souls of man to Him. I eagerly await to see what God will do through us as our world experiences difficulties and upheavals. Your support will assist us in bringing that message of hope to our community.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Pat