

## ENGLISH DISTRICT

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

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Greetings in Christ fellow workers in the harvest field.

**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
AND BISHOP**

Words from our Lord –

**Isaiah 41:10** "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

**Deuteronomy 31:6** "Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."

**Zephaniah 3:17** "The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing."

**Romans 8:38-39** "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

I pray that this letter finds you enjoying the mercy of our Lord this day. Today is a new day in Christ and one that shows his grace and mercy to all the world. I wanted to send out this note to you with several items of note.

First, due to President Trump's continuation of social distancing, I am making the decision to cancel the 2020 Professional Church Workers Conference in May. This is not an easy decision and one that saddens me; however, it is a necessary decision for the health and safety of all involved. To that end, the district will reimburse all congregations that have submitted their assessment already. We will also reimburse all those who have already bought airline tickets for this event if unable to get a refund from the airlines. Please note, if you are given a credit by the airlines and we reimburse you for this trip, you will be expected to use that credit for future English District travel.

Second, I am well aware that these events of the past two weeks and the future four to six weeks have and will continue to put major pressure on your ministries physically and financially. We are working with many to assist as best we can to work with each situation as it arises. Please note, the Cares Act passed and signed last week has provisions for the non-profit and religious organizations to receive loans and forgiveness of loans. I am encouraging you all to take advantage of this and to get in line for this relief effort. The district is working on procuring some additional funding to help as well. I should know more sometime next week how much and when I will be able to assist.

Third, please make sure you all take time to refresh mentally and physically. Your health and wellness are very important as you are working with others to maintain their health and wellness. Tight spaces and greater contact even with family members can cause some additional stress and pressure that will leach out in ways that are uncommon and can be destructive. You as workers in

the Church are not immune and should not dismiss this reality. Try to get some level of exercise in also as it helps with mental sharpness and overall health and wellness.

Lastly, we in the district office stand ready to serve you as best we can at this difficult hour in the lives of all. Please remember that communication is the key, and we are not immune from that either. Also, please do not think that because you post something on social media that my staff or I will see it. Do not assume that we know what is going on with you or your church. We cannot help unless you contact us directly.

Be well and know that the Lord is with us and will not leave us. This too shall soon pass.

Many blessings in Christ,

*Rev. Dr. Jamison J. Hardy*

Bishop/President

English District LCMS