



# New Life

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Letter

January 30, 2021

Dear friends,

I came across this prayer-poem back in December.

*Holy Mystery,  
You have set in motion  
A creation that gives us butterflies.  
I ask to understand these dark times  
As the inside of the chrysalis  
While we wait for transformation  
Because the darkness grows and we are afraid  
We cling to evidence that metamorphosis  
is possible.*

*~Karen Hurley Kuchar*

The prayer-poem captured my attention and I kept re-reading it. Maybe because it mentions butterflies, maybe because the words “holy mystery” begin it all, maybe because the last word is “possible.” The prayer-poem just made me feel better so I wrote it down in my notebook, making a note to share it with you in the new year.

As 2021 takes shape, small but powerful signs of hope abound: The vaccine! We can now have groups of 25! Indoor dining! And of course small but powerful worries still abound: What

about the variants? How come teachers can't get vaccinated, like, yesterday? Will another round of stimulus truly help those hit hardest by the pandemic? *While we wait for transformation...we cling to evidence that metamorphosis is possible.*

Here at New Life we continue to focus on what we can do. In February we will begin to have our youth groups gather again. A couple of times, in our bigger spaces, with plenty of room to distance and stay masked. It's what we can do. We are putting the finishing touches on very brief Ash Wednesday services (multiple times offered throughout the day, 15 minutes each) that will be in our sanctuary (with a limit of 25) that keep up the rhythms of our faith. (There will also a zoom option if you prefer to stay home.) We are actively researching renting a tent, so that we can have more folks in worship, outside, sooner rather than later. In our best-case scenario, we have the tent at the beginning of Holy Week so at the very least we don't spend another Easter fully separated. And then continue using worship-in-the-tent as the step right before we are able to gather indoors for worship. We are dreaming up options like Outdoor VBS, that is shorter and without food (pray for adults who plan activities for children without food.) We focus on what we can do, fully trusting God to continue carrying us through. *Holy Mystery, you have set in motion a creation that gives us butterflies.*

As you maybe heard in the January update video, we are anticipating 2021 to be a year of returning to one another, the building, the rhythms of church—and visioning where we are headed next, led by God, to be God's hands and feet in this community. It's exciting and wonderful and hopefully we won't be waiting long.

And, I encourage you to get the vaccine when your turn comes up. As you have questions or concerns, please consult trusted medical professionals. This pandemic has affected all of us and it will take all of us to defeat it. I'm one dose in and can barely wait for #2.

This is Temporary.

Keep praying.

Stay connected.

You are loved and missed.

*I ask to understand these dark times as the inside of a chrysalis.*

Yours,

Pastor Raket