

MESSIAH

LUTHERAN

CHURCH

May 5, 2022
Congregational letter #4

Greetings in Christ,

Again, we want to thank you for being the Church! The traditions and symbols of the Lent and Easter season point directly to the presence of Jesus in and through us. As the women at the tomb experienced, we are a part of a greater reality defined by the spiritual rather than the material world – The Kingdom of God. God is inviting others into His Kingdom through you.

The next 6 months will be crucial for churches throughout the world as we experience our first Summer and Fall without the fear of disease controlling our lives. Thank God we can now say confidently that our uncertainty is now solely due to the ambiguity of litigation.

Unfortunately, the implications of our legal battle have not become clearer and the hope of putting it behind us in 2022 is becoming less likely. Our prayers remain the same: ‘God make yourself known by answering this situation in a way only You can.’ It appears that God’s answer is not a settlement. We have moved on to the next stage of the legal process. This does not mean a settlement will not happen. It does mean that both sides have put forth their best effort in trying to accomplish a compromise rather than consume time and resources on a trial.

The leadership of the church has used the input of our Litigation Team to be faithful to a settlement process. We have done our due diligence to preserve our funds so that we could offer a settlement. The task of our leadership is now to discern what to do with those reserves during a legal battle that will not enter trial until this time next year or later. That discernment has just begun. We invite your prayers for our PPC and Litigation team in the months to come.

We had an excellent budget plan for 2022 that prepared us for two expectations: a settlement payment and the end of this litigation distraction. We will have to change our budget plan.

We will also be making a new plan for minimizing the distraction for our leadership and staff caused by an ongoing legal battle. Instead of putting it behind us, we will be taking measures to separate and protect the future of God’s work here from the legal battle. It will be a part of our story for multiple seasons, but it will not define our story.

What does that mean for your investment in the Church? Preserving capital and minimizing our expenses is no longer our priority. It is time to renew our investment in being ***faithful to Jesus Christ and known for sharing His love and teachings***. God has given you time, talent, and resources for such a time as this. Join us in welcoming our community back into the deeper spiritual realities all around us – The Kingdom of God.

Paster Kurt Hoover
Pr. Kurt Hoover, Senior Pastor

Beth Hohisel, President
Beth Hohisel, Congregation President