April 23, 2020

Dear Members and Friends of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church,

 Aloha! I hope and trust that you are all well. This week I want to update you all on the financial circumstances of the church and school. Our School Board for Sea Breeze School met via Zoom on Tuesday, April 21st and the Vestry met via Zoom last night on Wednesday, April 22nd.

As you might imagine, the School is closed, however, the teaching staff members are continuing to make contact Monday through Friday with the children through the use of Zoom meetings. They have daily classes for about thirty minutes for the younger children and longer sessions for the older preschool and transitional kindergarten children. As the School is closed it is of course not collecting tuition. However, the parents of the School have generously contributed donations to help the school.

The Vestry in turn has decided not to collect the monthly amount the School gives to the Church while it is not collecting tuition. Last night the Vestry clarified that the School may open when the County of San Mateo deems it to be safe enough to operate.

The Vestry has reaffirmed its commitment to continue to pay the School staff according to their contracts through the school year ending in June by drawing on savings. Likewise, the church will be having a gap in its income from the school until it is able to be open.

Also, the church and school has submitted an application for a Paycheck Protection Program loan to help both the church and school to continue to pay staff members. Hopefully, we will be granted a PPP loan.

At this point, the church is continuing to keep the church staff at its current levels and will be using savings to make up the short-fall when needed. Since worship is virtual with only the worship team being present on Sundays, we need to collect your offerings through the mail. I encourage you to continue to support the ministry of St. Ambrose through your offerings. Thanks to those of you who have been sending in your offerings through the mail.

As a church we are continuing our ministry through the Virtual Live Streaming Worship on You Tube, and making connections with the members using Zoom Meetings, or phone calls. As I have written over the past few weeks, we continue our Bible studies, Sunday School, Youth Group ministries as best we can through Zoom meetings. The governance meetings of the School Board and Vestry also conducts its business through Zoom meetings. Last Sunday, we added the virtual Coffee Hour through Zoom meetings. Beginning this Sunday, the Coffee Hours will be at 9 am and 11:30 am.

If you would like to participate in any of the Zoom meetings, including the Coffee Hour, please send me an email that you would like to participate. I will then send you a Zoom meeting invitation. The meetings are by invitation only to prevent the meetings from being “bombed” by some people who disrupt meetings for their own amusement.

Each of the Zoom meetings are hosted by different people. Please send me an email to the host of each Zoom meeting to let her or him know that you would like to join. Here is a list of the hosts of the Zoom meetings:

Sunday Coffee Hours at 9:00 am and 11:30 am, David Ota, dyota@mindspring.com

Sunday School at 10 am and 11 am, Fe Balamiento, valentin\_fe@yahoo.com

Sunday Youth Group at 4 pm, Karen Swanson, karen.2.swanson@gmail.com

Monday Bible Study on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 7 pm, Warren Wong, wwong@nd.edu

Tuesday Bible Study at 1 pm, David Ota, dyota@mindspring.com

Finally, I invite you to join us for our virtual worship on the Third Sunday of Easter, April 26th from 10 a.m. The gospel lesson is Luke 24:13-35, the story commonly known as the “the Road to Emmaus” gospel lesson. I will be the preacher this Sunday.

The link for the live-streaming You Tube worship is below, and the worship bulletin is posted on the church website at [www.stambrosefostercity.org](http://www.stambrosefostercity.org/).

 The link is: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfCRkqxS1Ii-yYov5kMpvDg>.

 I invite you to pray for those who are ill, especially Peggy Redmond, Yvonne Sidell, Charles Saunders, Daniel Tate, Jerelyn Weber, Ariel Rallos and Miles Martin, those who lost employment, those who are alone and those who heroically face danger in their efforts to provide essential services for the rest of us.

Blessings to you all. I look forward to the day when we will all be able to embrace one another in person in God’s love.

 Yours,

 David Y. Ota, Rector