



Dear Friends in Christ,

Providing an **update on the COVID-19 impact of the SEED program** during Holy Week provides for some interesting perspectives. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted just about every corner of our lives here in central Indiana. While the light of the end of the tunnel appears to burn quite dim, **Easter brings us new hope**; we hear the same message the women at the tomb heard: **"He is not here. He is Risen!"** (Mark 16.6 NIV)



The **SEED program remains active on campus to our residents and staff**. There have been **some alterations** to the program offerings in an effort to keep our residents well. We had to push **pause** on monthly **adopt a dorm visits** from church groups. We have also **adjusted the schedule to provide Bible study opportunities** by specific program centers rather than combining groups based upon ages. **Weekly chapel services are still happening**, again **with individual centers** rather than the whole community coming together. A bright spot to this is that our **Emergency Shelter Center residents now have a weekly chapel opportunity**. This has led to several of the residents requesting a Bible.



The Reformer, **Dr. Martin Luther** was once asked whether it is proper for a Christian to run away during a **deadly plague**. His **response** helped **then**, and it also shapes our response **today** to those entrusted to our care; his words illustrate the importance of the SEED program. Below is a small excerpt that relates more specifically to our work with the residents here at Lutherwood:

"In the case of children who are orphaned, guardians or close friends are under obligation either to stay with them or to arrange diligently for other nursing care for their sick friends. Yes, no one should dare leave his neighbor unless there are others who will take care of the sick in their stead and nurse them. In such cases we must respect the word of Christ, 'I was sick, and you did not visit me ...' [Matt. 25:41–46]."

According to this passage **we are bound to each other in such a way that no one may forsake the other in his distress but is obliged to assist and help him as he himself would like to be helped**.

Staying the course of regular spiritual care is important during such a challenging time for our society. With so many changes right now, having something that is stable and reliable is transformational (speaking here of the spiritual care piece, but specifically about God's Word). **Many of the residents are missing visits with their families** or going on passes in preparation of returning home. Some are **worried about their family members** who are older or are susceptible to illnesses. **We can come together as a smaller community to support the young people in our care and direct them to God's Word of hope**.

During this Holy Week, we come to Good Friday and are reminded of the great sacrifice that was made on our behalf by our Savior Jesus. He suffered and died to grant us forgiveness. But if that is all that happened, we would simply die forgiven with no hope of eternal life. The Good News for us is that the story does not end there. **We mourn on Good Friday but look expectantly to Easter Sunday when we celebrate the resurrection of our Savior**. This is our hope. This is where we look in times of plague, pandemic, sadness or disappointment. **We look to the cross and empty tomb that cures all ills**.

If you can help us **share the Good News of Christ to those in our care**, please consider **at donation to the SEED program**:
<http://lutheranfamily.org/donate.html>

