



2020 Amidst The COVID-19 Virus God Opens Door For Churches Ministry to People in Our Community

Although this is a time of immense uncertainty and fear here and around the world, it is also a very exciting time for the Church. Through the COVID-19 virus, God has opened many doors for the Church to reach out into the community to share His message of love and hope. Recently a local Dignity 4 Girls (D4G) group reached out to Lutheran Church Charities (LCC) to help get the word out to individuals and sewing groups for the need to make masks for medical facilities because of shortages of N95 respirator masks for health care workers caring for COVID-19 patients. D4G has also provided resources for sewing, patterns with instructions, lists of materials to use and not to use with links of where to find the materials, etc.

As the spread of COVID-19 progresses the President, State Governors along with the CDC announced that all citizens should wear reusable face-masks when going out in public to protect other people and help reduce the spread of COVID-19. It is essential that the N95 masks be available to first responders and medical staff on the front lines working face to face, caring for COVID-19 patients.

For that reason, the reusable face-masks will be even more in demand. This is where the church has the opportunity to step up and reach out to the community by sewing cloth masks and making them available free to anyone who needs one. Besides providing masks for individuals and families, the local group who contacted us is now getting requests from business who have essential workers they need to protect while they provide services to the community; like a local post office who requested 20 mask for each of the three shifts.

The need for the masks will be great but the need to hear words of love and hope is even more crucial and will impact the kingdom of God and many lives. God has put His Church in the position to be able to reach out to people in our communities like no other time before. After all the fear, anxiety, loneliness, helplessness that the isolation of sheltering in place has brought, people are looking for a ray of hope and comfort in the midst of a world that is out of control. God has not only given His followers the opportunity but the resources to do it and His promise to be with us and in us as we reach out with His love, peace and hope. The need for masks is just one of the tools He is using to help us connect with people and build relationships that will change the world.

If you want to use this opportunity and means to reach out to your community, Lutheran Church Charities has provided a number of free helpful articles, patterns and resources to get started. Thank you to D4G who did much of the research and sifted through the thicket of websites and misinformation. Attached you will find patterns with instructions, tips, instructional videos and other resources.

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction and faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope you have. 1 Peter 3:15

- [Pattern and Instructions for Fitted Facemask](#) (Fitted mask from Dignity 4 Girls with pattern and sewing instructions.)
- [Tips and Video Resources](#)
- [Patterns and Tips from Trinity Roselle](#)
- [Written Instructions for A Surgeons Guide Video](#) (A written 15 step guide for the Video "A Surgeon's Guide to Sewing a Surgical Mask. See Tips and Video Resources Attachment to view Video Instructions.)
- [Summary of Research Info. on Best Materials to Use for Face Mask](#) (Also contains link to full scientific report.)