



## Update on current Bishop's directive

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ! Alleluia, Christ is Risen! The Lord is Risen indeed! Blessings and salutations to you all and I wanted to give you a quick update with our current directive from the bishop. I have mixed feelings about the directive, but as usual, we are the Episcopal church and we have an episcopate that governs our actions. The bishop at this time has directed that live streaming services from the church may begin again. This is good news indeed and I look forward to providing worship from our sacred sanctuary once again. However, the bishop has directed that all activities at the church are still not allowed to take place. This means that we still are not able to conduct any activities that are considered non-essential at the church. This is frustrating not only to me, but to many of you who have many varied reasons to be at the church taking care of our grounds, facilities and ministries. It appears that May 24<sup>th</sup> continues to be a soft date for allowing activities to resume again. This is not confirmed as of yet, but when it does, will also come with many stipulations that we follow all CDC and health department guidelines for gatherings.

We are the Church, not the buildings, not the facilities, not the grounds, but WE the people are the Church. I ask that you please continue to call one another, use social media in as many forms as you can as a means to stay in contact. I have heard from many of you on how much you have enjoyed one another checking in on each other. This will not last forever and we will not allow it to extinguish the Holy Spirit that is within us. I want to thank all the members who are working behind the scenes to make face masks for parishioners and also for personnel who are working in the COVID-19 environment. Thank you for the food collections and ideas on how to help one another; for those who are sending cards and notes of encouragement; for those volunteering to help with the readings and recording the readings; for those who are praying daily for all those who are affected by COVID-19 and the shelter in place directives. I am also deeply grateful for the many ways ECA members have found ways to financially support the church budget, but also helping out parish members who are in need. ECA is an AMAZING Church because of the people, and I am honored and humbled to be your rector and serve you all in this ministry. *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)*

In Christ,

Fr. Paul+

*“Our Mission is to bear witness to God’s love and invite, encourage, and prepare God’s people to share that grace with others.”*