



April 12, 2020

An important message from the PSEC youth leadership

Youth of the PSEC (and their pastors and parents),

In the midst of what feels like a slew of cancellations and mounting anxieties, I am also here with some disappointing news. The PSEC Spring Youth Event April 24-26 and the National Youth Event July 22-25 have both been cancelled/rescheduled. This news may feel discouraging, but we know that the best way to love our neighbors and to care for one another is to stay socially isolated to stop the spread of COVID-19.

The plan for National Youth Event is to reschedule at Purdue University for the summer of 2022 -- this will take the place of the Regional Youth Event that would have normally been planned for 2022. In addition, there will be some online NYE materials available this summer -- we will publish information on that once it's received. If you are looking for a national youth gathering sooner, plan to attend the Youth @ Synod program at General Synod in Kansas City, Missouri July 16-20, 2021 (more details to follow).

With NYE being canceled for this summer, the hope is to have the Spring Youth Event sometime over the summer. Since we don't know when we will be gathering in large groups again I don't have the specific details. I can assure you that we are doing everything possible to still find a way to get the PSEC Youth together this summer (as long as that's a safe thing to do).

Even though as a community of youth we are being separated right now, I hope you all know that nothing can separate us from the love of God, and that love connects us to each other across the miles.

Don't be afraid to reach out to your friends during this time and if you need to chat or need someone to listen (or have any questions), don't hesitate to reach out to me: kimberlyberenotto@gmail.com

In Christ's love, *Rev. Kim Berenotto*

An Easter Like No Other

This Easter Sunday is like no other we have experienced. Surrounded by disease and death and separated from the faith communities that make Easter come alive. In that separation is deep grief for the loss and pain of these days and the unmet longing for our best resource to meet it—each other.

But when the disciples feared going outside after Jesus' execution, Jesus came to them in the glory and the mystery of resurrection and revealed what is happening all the time. Even now as you read this.

Reality is always moving toward death and resurrection. The coronavirus has awakened our death denying culture to the very real limitations of being human. Not just the death of the physical body, but all the moments recently when we have reached the end of our own resources and had to let go of how we wanted life to be.

These early deaths are opportunities to practice a reliance on God's grace in the process of transformation. Too often we will look for someone to blame for having to change and there is a lot of blaming these days. None of it helps us to surrender to the moment or to the grace of God active in it. And it's the surest way to a death of the heart and soul on the way to the death of body.

But if you do choose to walk through the depths – the loss of our traditional Easter rituals among all the rest-- you will come out the other side, knowing you've been taken there by a Source larger than yourself. As it happens in this life, so too shall it happen in the life that is to come.

In the words of Theologian Fr. Richard Rohor, *"If we are to speak of miracles, the most miraculous thing of all is that God uses the very thing that would normally destroy you—the tragic, sorrowful, painful, or unjust—to transform and enlighten you. Now you are indestructible; there are no dead ends. Resurrection is not a one-time cosmic transaction, but the constant pattern of all growth and change."*

I pray that the Spirit of Jesus Christ finds you today behind the doors of coronavirus sequestration giving you the certain peace of a resurrection power that is yours in this life and in the life to come.

Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!

Rev. William "Bill" Worley, PSE Conference Minister

