



November 15, 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

When we rang in the New Year of 2020, no one was prepared for what was to come. Without a doubt, the unknowns of tomorrow can leave us feeling fearful and vulnerable. Thankfully, 1 Peter 5:7 reminds us that we can always bring our worries and concerns to our heavenly Father because He cares about us. Based on that promise, we trust that He will see us through these times of uncertainty.

So much of what we have encountered since March 12 are things we never anticipated or expected. As the situation is ever-evolving, so must we continually adapt, as well.

Before March, we were blessed with a multitude of people volunteering onsite – fellow members of the Kingdom working in the Food Pantry, preparing for worship, prepping for Redeemer Kids. Hundreds of you were serving! Then, sadly, because of the pandemic, our entire campus was locked down except for a few staff only. Since coming back onsite for worship, some have felt comfortable serving while others, understandably, are not. Regardless, we thank God for these faithful people who have served or are serving now.

As you may already know, we had to make a significant number of modifications and improvements to our worship experience, which included purchasing equipment so that we could provide livestream and online worship services for everyone at home. Planning for and offering worship each week is an important part of what God has called us to do.

Additionally, returning for onsite worship poses other financial challenges. The expenses associated with cleaning and sanitizing the campus are above and beyond what we had budgeted. Keeping you all safe while you are onsite is extremely important, and we must maintain these standards for the foreseeable future.

Our staff has been challenged to find new and creative ways to adapt to our current situation along with the many restrictions placed on “normal” operations. They have done an amazing job behind the scenes – keeping you informed, offering ministry opportunities to you and those in our community, and bringing you worship each week. I give thanks for each and every one of them!



Also, I want to thank you for your prayers! We are encouraged and uplifted by the outpouring of your love and support. We are also incredibly thankful for your offerings and donations. For those who are able, I boldly ask you to give sacrificially. Frankly, due to these extra expenses, we are falling behind in meeting our budget, and challenges may still lie ahead. While we are confidently trusting in God's faithfulness to see us through, I also wanted to remind you that what you give matters.

You have risen to the occasion so many times over the course of this pandemic. You have helped to bless hundreds of people in and around North Royalton through our spring and fall "Servant Saturday" events, through your support of the Food Pantry, and now our upcoming Care and Share Thanksgiving day meals. With each new day, God faithfully guides our path, helping us to overcome obstacles, and providing ways for us to accomplish ministry under very different circumstances.

As we move into these next months, I am confident that God will be at work here at Royal Redeemer and, through your continued generosity, make a difference in the lives of the people within this congregation, our community and around the world.

May God watch over you and your loved ones and keep you in His protection and in good health.

In the love of Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor John Zahrte". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pastor John Zahrte