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***“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.” Romans 15:13 ESV***

Blessings all,

The past week has been a blur of rapidly evolving policy and practices locally, statewide, and nationally. Each day brings new information, and at times, new challenges. Our switch to a collaborative learning model began yesterday. While there were some hiccups in this process, overall, this has been a smooth transition.

I greatly appreciate all of your support and communication with your respective teachers. You have been the foundation in making this transition in to our new reality. We know that this too shall pass, and that at some point, we will resume our everyday lives. Hephatha Lutheran administration continues to monitor closely the outbreak's impact regarding our campus and the community at large. We will continue to be in accordance with recommendations from the CDC, OC Public Health, and the California Department of Health.

While Hephatha Lutheran Church and School will continue to follow these guidelines, our worship and chapel services will continue to be offered through online streaming avenues. At this time, there have been no known cases of COVID-19 reported by members of the Hephatha community.

A variety of sources have tried to forecast a timeline as to when our regularly scheduled way of life will return. Hephatha has continued to follow the guidelines set in place by the CDC, which lists collaborative learning continuing throughout at March 31st. This is NOT a fixed date that will allow us to return to our regular school schedule; the possibility of this date being moved back is still a reality.

As you have seen in the past week, new information and policies are moving at a rapid pace. While some government officials speculate about later dates for return, we will continue to hope and pray that this date will remain as our return.

In the meantime, to aide in the loss of our face to face interaction, Hephatha has altered its Easter break schedule. Easter break was originally set to start on April 10, Good Friday, with the last day of break being Friday, the 17th. The break has now been moved forward to before the Easter holiday. The new Easter break will start on Monday, April 6th, with the hope of school resuming April 14th, should health officials lift social distancing policies. We will continue to lift up in prayer our government officials, health workers, and others involved in combating this outbreak.

Hephatha Lutheran will continue to provide weekly updates. Please contact the administration office with any questions.

In Christ,

Eric Deyke  
Principal  
Hephatha Lutheran School