

North Lake Macquarie Uniting Congregation

Office: 342 Hillsborough Road, Warners Bay NSW 2282, Ph: (02) 4956-5544

E-Mail: nlmu@bigpond.net.au;

Website: nlmunitingchurch.com

Postal Address: P.O. Box 352, Warners Bay, 2282.



Minister: Rev. Dr. Kenneth Brown

Ph: 0422 526 269; **Email:** kennethbrown.nlmchurch@gmail.com

G'day my Friends,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. What a joy it was for us to open our doors and return to worship in early August, followed by a sadness that it was over all too quickly - after only two Sundays together. It was feared that a second wave of the Corona Virus was about to hit our Newcastle area and we were strongly encouraged by Synod to take the precautionary measure of holding no face to face worship services. Thankfully that second wave never did really eventuate.

Over recent weeks we have seen more and more aspects of life and work opening - albeit with considerable restrictions attached. The good news for us as a church is that our worship services will **restart on the 4th of October** and for us this is most welcome news. We shall meet *with what are now 'familiar restrictions' in place*. It seems that living with the Corona Virus will be *life as we know it* for some time. We do not expect to open and close, open and close our church doors, but expect to stay open. It may well be that the decision is out of our hands if Synod or government impose a city-wide or national lockdown, but apart from that, we will remain open while taking all necessary precautions for your safety.

It would be understandable if, like me, you were looking forward to entering church singing, or at least starting our worship service with a rousing hymn of togetherness, hope and thanksgiving. How odd it will be for us to have such a desire vocally suppressed while our song is loud and lively within our hearts! From Psalm 100, "*I will enter his gates with thanksgiving in my hearts I will enter his courts with praise...*" Yes we desire to sing out our faith at this time, but alas the singing will have to be in our hearts and not with vocal praise just yet.

I look forward to our **return to worship on 4th October**, surely our faith in Jesus has kept us in the knowledge that he never left us nor abandoned us but has been with us all our journey through. In Him is all my trust and confidence. The Lord has been present with us giving us a new faith story to tell. Coming together we get to celebrate the Lord's faithfulness. From Isaiah 52:11: "*Therefore the redeemed of the LORD shall return, and come with singing (in their hearts!) unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head...*"

Finally, keep safe, take all precautions necessary and if you don't feel ready to come to church just yet, please do what you must for your safety and peace of mind. You have my number and you are always welcome to call.

"The Lord is with you: and also with you Kenneth." Amen.

*Peace be with you,
Kenneth.*