



November 13, 2020



CAN WE COUNT ON YOU TO KEEP OUR ARK AFLOAT IN 2021?



We've got an idea to *float* by you!

We've gone this far with Covid-19!

What more do we need? We need to keep our Ark afloat! Please keep reading!

Covid-19's disruption still waves across the spectrum of life. It disrupts daily routines at home, school, and

work. It disrupts weddings, funerals, and graduations. It disrupts access to travel, medical care, entertainment, and places of worship. It disrupts the economy and

industry from restaurants to car manufacturers. It disrupts sports for athletes and fans of every age. It's even disrupted an election. We're not through the storm yet. But we're getting through it!

LUMC is our Ark! It's in disruption too. Amazingly, God helps us learn from the disruption. We realize that God is our only safe refuge in trying circumstances. We understand that God created our marvelous human brains to adapt to change and be creative in challenging disruptions. The LiveStream service is proof of that. Since March, eight people, who were practically unskilled in the art of virtual worship production, put their heads together to offer you (hopefully!) rich, meaningful, and sustaining worship. God is mighty to save!

And Covid-19 is a disruption in giving, making an already precarious reality for LUMC a bit more dangerous. But our people rise to the challenge absolutely and miraculously in their generosity. People are stepping up their giving. They're keeping our Ark afloat! That's no small thing. Some churches that shuttered because of Covid-19 will never reopen. LUMC won't be one of them. Thank you!

What more can you do to keep our Ark afloat?

It might seem mundane, but a decision about how you give generously might be critical to keeping us afloat?

We need more of you to sign on to electronic giving, preferably through our Realm advantage.

Why? Very soon, the 2021 box of offering envelopes will arrive. This year, we're trying something *nove!* Around December 15, you can expect a mailing from the church. In it will be (1) your first two months of offering envelopes. We're hoping a bi-monthly mailing of your envelopes might stimulate their consistent use. (2) your "Can We Count on You to Keep Our Ark Afloat?" intention of giving card, along with an addressed and stamped envelope for your reply. (3) and an urgent appeal letter to coax you to move away from envelopes to electronic giving.

Why is electronic giving so critical to our church?

Are you aware of what happens when you drop your envelope or cash on the offering plate? Most people think the transaction ends there! It doesn't! Lots of "people time and energy" goes into the process: (1) secure the offering, (2) counters travel to LUMC, (3) retrieve the money from the safe, (4) count it, (5) record giving, separate giving to various funds, write deposit slips, (6) deposit the money at the bank, and (7) accurately record each gift given! **All this human effort and time vanishes if more givers choose electronic giving. It's getting harder, especially with Covid-19, to find people to count.** Yes, there's a fee associated with electronic giving, but it's minimal compared to the time and energy church members use to count money.

Electronic giving, primarily through "Realm," helps keep money flowing regularly to keep the Ark afloat!

If you choose to give by Realm before December 15, you'll avoid getting the bi-monthly envelopes, you'll get remembering to give off your mind, and you'll make a more significant contribution to our church than you might imagine. Contact Warren Shaedle at 215-692-0668 for assistance in e-giving by Realm.

What's left to say?

Covid-19's deadliest disruption is in the 240,000 neighbors whose lives were taken prematurely, disrupting families with tremendous grief, pain, and loss. Let's offer them to God in prayer: *O Lord, comfort the hearts of all in our nation who said farewell to loved ones during Covid-19. May their memories be an inspiration and blessing to us all. Amen.*



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Our mailing address is:

300 N. Broad Street, Lansdale, PA 19446

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