

# Jeypore Evangelical Lutheran Church (JELC) Newsletter May 2020, vol. I - COVID Response Edition

## Message by Bishop Asish Kumar Pal



I bring greetings in the name of our resurrected Lord Jesus Christ with a living word of God Isaiah 41:10 – “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” We are in a time of global health crisis. The world is in fear and anxiety. COVID 19 has created havoc and disaster in the lives of human beings all over the world. We are witnessing such situation first time in our lifetime. It seems our fight against the virus has just begun and we have to go a long way. We are under lockdown, life and human movements have come to standstill. The gap between the rich and poor is more visible than ever before even though the disease is not discriminatory, yet the poor people, low wage workers, domestic workers, migrant labours who suffer the most because of lockdown and isolation. It is commendable that the government agencies and NGOs, churches are reaching out to these people. But the need is enormous and we need to prepare for a long term engagement. JELC during the lockdown is having hardest time. Our congregational believers are deprived of the spiritual nourishment. Online prayers are being organized every Sunday, but this facility is limited to few congregations only. First time in history, we had to be at home on Good Friday and Easter Sunday and even missed part taking in Holy Communion. Most of our pastors in the rural congregations are not getting their salaries as there is no offering being collected. It is not just a mere health and economic challenge, but a deep spiritual challenge as well. To be at home in isolation without much social contacts is not an easy life and many may go into depression. Therefore, we are also keen in providing pastoral care and counselling during this critical time. We have started distributing food, ration to the neediest people who have lost their income and means of livelihood. Our congregations are raising resources to help the poor people. The lockdown may have another dimension for us to reflect on how we have become more concerned for our brothers and sisters in need, our time for family are more intense and meaningful and the earth is pollution free. Though we badly look forward to start life like before, yet, the present situation has indeed taught us new way of looking at life. We Our Partnership Desk is much engaged in making communications easy and possible on social media by putting up a lot of information and thus the church is reaching quite a number of people. I pray to God to give all of us the hope and strength in a time such as this so that we all remain in prayer and stay healthy. [May God bless you all!](#)

## Editor's Note

I am spending a lot of time at home reading books and posting on face book, making videos. The news channels are overloaded with all kind of information on COVID 19 giving a wider view of the disease and its current consequences. Life has suddenly changed and it is teaching us a lot about meaning of life itself and our role as responsible human being. While many of us have the privilege of being at home and still be able to survive without much complication, there are thousands of people who do not have such privilege and are struggling to find essential commodities. This news letter contains information about three activities of the church that going carried out during the lockdown. They are online church services, online meetings and relief/food distribution. We would request our readers to extend your support to your prayer and support in our ministry.



## Online Prayer Services and Online Meetings

Easter Sunday Service live Streaming at Kotpad church Rev. P Martin Rao, Dean of Kotpad Deanery delivering the sermon.

Kotpad has been doing Online service since 22<sup>nd</sup> March.



Palm Sunday Service led by Rev. Jujheswar Naik Dean of Nabarangpur Deanery which was live Streamed.

They are doing online services every Sunday



Rev. Ujwal Satman, Dean of Malkangiri Deanery leading Sunday Service on 26<sup>th</sup> April



Rev. Bidhan Kumar Naik, Parish Pastor Bhejaput and Synod Chairman of JELC leading Moundy Thursday Service

Rev. Manoj Naik, Dean Of Jeypore Deanery Leading Moundy Thursday service in Jeypore



Rev. Jisudan Khora Dean of Sunabeda leading Sunday Service on 26 April



The Partnership Desk held the first webinar of the Jeypore Evangelical Lutheran Church with the JELC members currently working in different organisations places in different cities in India and abroad. The topic of discussion was : "Hope, Health and Social Security". Mr. Angelious Michael, Coordinator of the Partnership Desk and Communications, moderated the discussion.



Good Friday service live streamed From Koraput. Rev. Rabindra Chetty is seen delivering the sermon.

The online service is available since 22<sup>nd</sup> March.



On line prayer meeting is being regularly organised by the Youth Desk of JELC moderated by Ms. Sahana Rani Benya, Coordinator of the desk



Bishop Asish Kumar Pal of the Jeypore Evangelical Lutheran Church in his solidarity visit to the pastors and catechists of Kotpad Deanery motivated them to follow all precautions and lockdown guidelines. He encouraged them to engage themselves through online prayer services and conduct virtual spiritual programs. The meeting was organized by Rev.P Martin Rao, Dean of Kotpad Deanery

Rev.Ujwal Chandra Satman, Dean of Malkangiri Deanery makes use of the church building for relief distribution. He is seen giving away rice and other essential



Rev. Sanjeev Kumar of Araku Valley is much engaged in relief distribution



Awareness on hygiene by distributing hand wash soaps masks in Jeypore by Bishop Asish Kumar Pal in the presence of Rev.Manoj Naik, Dean of Jeypore and Rev.Himansu Sekhar Chand, Dean of Umerkote.

The Christian Youth Association of Koraput distributed cooked food to the street dwellers and beggars. They carried out several of this food distribution in Koraput town under the leadership of Mr.Sujit Polai, Youth President.



Bishop Asish Kuma Pal visited ACS pastors and Gurus in Doliambo and counselled them to follow all government guidelines and at the same time to stay engaged in prayer with the believer either through online or in the church without the mass. JELC pastors are not getting their salaries due to lockdown as a result of which churches are empty affecting the offerings. Mr.Biroj Kumar Benya , Treasurer, JELC was present. Rev.Jakhin Kumar Huika, President, Adivasi Desk coordinated the meeting

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