



3-18-2020

Hello St. Luke Family,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Things have certainly been crazy lately, and I hope you all are doing well. I wanted to take this moment to share with you some of our plans as a faith community over the next several weeks in light of recent guidelines put forth by the Centers for Disease Control and the President of the United States.

On Sunday March 15th, 2020, the CDC released new guidelines recommending all gatherings of 50 or more be postponed or canceled for the next eight weeks. Following this recommendation, the President in a press conference in the afternoon of Monday the 16th recommended that all gatherings of 10 or more people be canceled for the next two weeks. In light of these recommendations and to slow the spread of the CoronaVirus, I have decided on the following in consultation with the Leadership Board:

1. All worship and in person activities will be suspended through April 3rd. We will make a determination by April 1st about future cancelations.
2. The remainder of the *Creed* book study will be finished online through video/phone conference at their regular times. Information for how to join the meeting will be sent to participating members shortly before the start of the session via text message and on the Facebook page.
3. Wednesday Night Live is canceled for the remainder of Lent, and the Koinonia dinner is postponed.
4. We will be live streaming our 10:30 am service only. It will be archived for future viewing on our website and YouTube channel.
5. Sunday School is canceled.
6. Easter Egg Hunt is canceled.
7. Decisions on Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter events will be made a later time.

I will be looking for new ways of reaching out to everyone over the next several days, including some live video chat sessions on our YouTube channel, and some various devotionals. Technology is a great way to help us connect with one another in new ways while we hunker down and flatten the curve. But I also realize that for some, technology is not an option for various reasons. This was one of the main reasons I struggled with canceling worship and activities. So in light of this, we have decided to produce a weekly newsletter during the duration of our social isolation. Included will be a brief news update from me, (like you are reading right now), a copy of my sermon manuscript, a daily scripture reading plan, our prayer list, and a few other announcements. We hope to get this mailed out by Tuesday or Wednesday of each week.

I would also like to offer, for those unable to access the live stream, a copy of the worship service on a DVD. If you would like this, I would be happy to deliver a DVD of the service to your home, or you could pick it up at the office. Please call the office between 8:30 am and 12:30 pm Monday - Friday and let Cheri know, we will get it out to you.

Please check our website at www.stlukelincoln.org and our Facebook page for up to date announcements. Also, cancelations will be placed on 1011 News and in the Lincoln Journal Star. If you have any other suggestions on how to weather the storm, please let me know. I can't promise we can do it all, but we will try to accommodate.

I know that all of this can be a little daunting, and that there is a lot of fear and uncertainty going around. The last thing I wanted to do was to cancel worship and activities. I love the Lenten season and our soup suppers. I love the community as I'm sure you all do, but the safety of our members and the Lincoln community is important and we need to do our part to slow the progression of the virus.

I want to invite you to continue to support the ministry at St. Luke which makes it possible to provide worship and resources such as this and the live stream. Though we are not meeting in person, unfortunately, like all of us, the bills still need to be paid. I understand that for some of us, money might be tight over the next several months as we stay home, but I invite you to do what you can. You can contribute on our website, you can mail in your check, or you can contact your bank and set up an automatic bill pay.

If you know of anyone who might need assistance either getting groceries delivered, or if you need to call and chat, please let myself or the church office know and we will see what we can do.

I want to close this letter with these words from Psalm 56:3-4, "whenever I'm afraid, I put my trust in you—in God, whose word I praise. I trust in God; I won't be afraid. What can mere flesh do to me?"

May the love and peace of Christ be with you,

Pastor Curt