

HOLY CROSS

LUTHERAN CHURCH



IN JESUS

Dear Worshiping Community of Holy Cross,

The Holy Cross Board of Directors met Tuesday Evening, March 17, and implemented the following guidelines for ministry at Holy Cross in the coming weeks.

There will be:

- Worship posted online Wednesday evenings, beginning March 18, and Sunday mornings, beginning March 21, at www.holycrosslcms.net for you and your family to engage in at home.
- No in person worship services at Holy Cross through at least the end of March.
- No in person group meetings/activities at Holy Cross at least through the end of March. (Except for the meeting of essential leaders, such as the Board of Directors, Staff, or Spiritual Care Team, which will adhere to CDC established social distance and hygiene guidelines, if they meet.)
- The Board of Directors will re-evaluate these guidelines on March 31.

We are now called to navigate what it means to be the people of God under the current public health prescriptions and rising tide of new infections and fears. Your Board of Directors has not made these decisions lightly but has considered not only health implications but our responsibility of love towards our neighbors in our local community and those most vulnerable in our worshiping community. The storm has now progressed beyond the point of simply saying "if you are ill or at risk, stay home." There are measures we can take to protect the health and well-being of those around us, and we are called upon in the love of Christ to do so.

These are what people refer to as uncharted waters, but we know about the one who stills the waters. "*Though its waters roar and foam...The LORD Almighty is with us*" (Ps. 46) and Jesus "*rebuked the winds and the sea and there was a great calm...even the winds and the sea obey him!*" (Matt. 8)

The Lord in that episode had to still some fearful disciples along with the storm. He stills us by his Word. During this time at home stay in His Word. Daily devotional time and regular worship with your Holy Cross community are essential avenues for His message of peace. Though not together physically, we can be together in Spirit and in song.

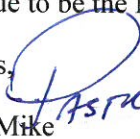
Fear invites concern for self, but the peace of the Lord invites us to love generously. Continue to share and care for people in our community, consider those out of work or income, patronize local businesses, and keep up your charitable giving to community organizations. Giving avenues at Holy Cross are still available (offering envelopes may be sent in the mail, online donations made through our website, and automated giving may be set up through your bank or through our office).

Lastly, we will rally our Staff and Spiritual Care Teams to reach out in love to check in on families in our congregation. I urge each of you to do the same for those whom you will not see weekly in worship. Call them! Send a card! Instant message them, if you are so inclined! We will be organizing volunteers to care for those who might need assistance: a trip to the store, to the pharmacy, or perhaps a break from children. We may not be able to meet every need but if you are willing to be one of those volunteers to help, e-mail us in the office, secretary@holycrosslcms.net, and we will put you on that list.

Continue to be the Body of Christ, even if at a safe social distance.

In Jesus,

Pastor Mike

 Pastor Mike 3-18-20