



12 March 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

To be honest, I've never led a congregation during an epidemic, so the current situation in our country and world is new to me. I have been following the CDC, Dane County Health Department, and other reputable medical and scientific sources regarding the Coronavirus epidemic.

Given the increasing concerns regarding the spread of this virus, and the constant changing data, we want you to know that the health and safety of our families and community members is of utmost importance to the leadership of Christ Lutheran Church.

Below are the current precautions Christ Lutheran Church has begun to implement in order to do what we can to curb the spread of the coronavirus:

1. Our custodial staff will be cleaning high traffic areas every day with antibacterial wipes and a bleach-based cleaner.
2. Bottles of hand sanitizer are placed throughout the building to encourage its regular use.
3. This Sunday, March 15, we will **not** be celebrating Holy Communion. I will be working with our worship staff to determine the safest way to share the sacrament. Communion is a deep personal connection with Jesus and we want to offer it in a way that honors our connection to Jesus and each other.
4. Offering plates will not be passed during the service. Offering plates will be available at the end of service as you leave (similar to the way the offering is collected at our Advent and Lenten services).
5. Our Greeters will not be shaking hands as people enter the sanctuary. They will verbally greet people. I will not be shaking hands with people at the end of service, but will be at the doorway to greet you. Please remember—if you or a family member are sick, please stay home.

More information regarding our worship services and education classes will be available next week. I have called a special meeting for Monday, March 16th of our church council, office staff, custodial staff, and other leaders to help discern next steps. We will pray for God's wisdom for how we can best be church together during this precarious time.

I am attempting to keep as current as possible on this ever-changing epidemic. We do not want to panic, nor do we want to ignore what is happening. We remain confident in God's love and guidance and invite you to pray with us and for those affected with this virus as well as those suffering from other health concerns.

God's Abiding Peace,

Pastor Sue Beadle