

# St. Luke Lutheran CHURCH & SCHOOL

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March 17, 2020

*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you.  
Let not your hearts be troubled. Neither let them be afraid" John 14:27*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Having received a clear recommendation from our local and national authorities that gatherings of 10 or more people should be avoided for the next two-week period, ***the pastoral team and leadership group of St Luke Lutheran Church and School have decided to cancel all in-person activities and gatherings, including worship, effective immediately through March 29<sup>th</sup>***. Our school remains closed, and communication will come through Principal Kelly Carney and our school teachers. Our school staff continues to meet as needed, exercising great caution, as they prepare and offer distance learning for students. This decision was not made lightly or without significant prayer and conversation.

In unprecedented times such as these, the Church is faced with many difficult challenges and decisions. We are, at the same time, members of God's church and members of our earthly society. Scripture and the 4<sup>th</sup> commandment clearly teach that we are not just to honor our father and mother, but also all authorities which God has placed over us. We take our responsibility in both kingdoms seriously.

Our pastoral team and leaders are saddened by the lack of in-person community this will cause but consider it a necessary step to take as we care for our neighbors and honor the Lord by submitting to those in positions of authority who have made these recommendations. ***Our pastoral team is dedicated to offering Word and Sacrament ministry in whatever way possible during this time.*** It is our intention to provide opportunities for connection and community electronically via recorded messages, devotions, and prayers as well as offering print resources through our website for your use at home. We would also invite you to make use of our online giving capabilities found on our website or to mail in your offering in the weeks to come. Your offerings continue to fund and facilitate the ministry of St Luke.

We will communicate as broadly and publicly as possible in the next two weeks, and invite you to check our website; [stlukecabot.org](http://stlukecabot.org), our Facebook page, and your home mailing address for the latest updates as we navigate this time together. Please send us your current email and home address. We trust in the Lord and invite you to reach out to us by phone or email with any concerns or needs you have. As in all things, Jesus is ruling and reigning graciously for our benefit. We place ourselves and our trust entirely in Him.

May His peace be with you and those you love,

  
Pastor Ben Berteau

  
Pastor Barry Keurulainen

  
Kelly Carney, Principal

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