

St. Luke Lutheran CHURCH & SCHOOL

December 15, 2020

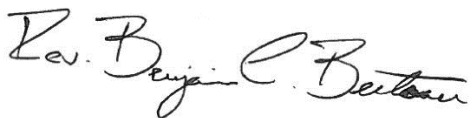
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Pastor Jared and I made separate visits to a member over the weekend, on Sunday and Monday, who has since tested positive for COVID-19. In consulting the Pennsylvania Department of Health, we were made aware that we are considered close contacts of the person and should get tested in the days to come and follow the guidelines for quarantining 7-10 days based on the results. We intend to follow these guidelines for the safety and protection of everyone at St Luke. As such, Pastor Jared and I will not be working in the church office this week or present at worship this weekend as we quarantine in our homes. This weekend's worship, December 19-20th, will still be in person. Pastor Jared will record a sermon that will be displayed on the screens in each worship service, and Vicar Brian will lead the liturgy. Adult Bible Study will be conducted via Zoom only.

Our quarantine, even if it were to be 10 days, would end in time to still allow Christmas services to occur in person since our exposure occurred on December 13th and 14th. While we hope the results are negative and only necessitate a 7-day quarantine, either result still leaves open the possibility that Christmas worship services could remain in person. Much could change in the days to come, but our quarantine is being undertaken in the hopes of not prematurely ruling out the possibility of in-person Christmas services, and in keeping with the guidance we've given the congregation to do everything in our power to care for the welfare of others over our own. Our leadership team of Pastors, Elders, and Board of Lay Leaders are in constant conversation and will continue to monitor the situation for the care and safety of everyone involved.

Jared and I remarked to each other today how much respect and admiration we have for all frontline workers who endure this amount of uncertainty each day in the name of caring for others. We appreciate and admire all of you who use your gifts and vocations in service of God and His people. Our trust remains in the Lord, and we will continue to lift our church, community, and county in fervent prayer to God.

Thank you,



Pastor Ben Berteau



Pastor Jared Townley