

March 13, 2020

Dear Members and Friends of Holy Trinity,

Many of you are aware of the seriousness of COVID-19 and the efforts to flatten the curve of infection. Many institutions and organizations are suspending operations, and the NC Governor has discouraged gatherings of more than 100, including worship. This morning, our NC Synod Bishop Tim Smith emailed a letter to all NC ELCA churches and Rostered Ministers with advice and suggestions (read the letter at [nclutheran.org](http://nclutheran.org)).

Please know that your pastors and staff are taking this very seriously and planning with great caution. Here is our plan for the foreseeable future:

## **Worship**

All 3 worship services (8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 5:00 p.m.) will be available on Sunday, March 15. Or, you may worship from home at 11am [via the livestream on our website](#).

- Note: People 65 and over are encouraged not to attend public worship
- Worship assistants and volunteers are not required to attend (ushers, greeters, choir, altar guild, acolytes, assisting ministers, lay readers, etc.)
- 8:30 worship will be in the Nave to allow/encourage social distancing
- Online giving and mail in contributions are encouraged
- Please stay home if you do not feel well and avoid physical touching in worship
- Beginning Sunday, March 22 – Worship at Holy Trinity will be available by livestream only
- Youth Sunday will be rescheduled to a later date

## **Faith Formation**

All classes for children and adults scheduled for Sundays and Wednesdays are canceled for the rest of March and Sunday, April 5.

## **Wednesdays**

The Lenten lunch class, music rehearsals, supper, youth, and evening worship are canceled for the rest of March and April 1.

## **Ministry Meetings and Small Groups**

Ministry Leaders and Staff will use their own discretion to decide what is best for each group. Space is available in our church building. Please call the church office and coordinate with Karen Kahill. Thank you!

## **Outside Groups**

Use of our church building is still available for outside groups. Group leaders will decide and communicate their plans to their respective participants.

## **Be Safe and Remember that You/We are Blessed!**

This situation is unprecedented, but we will continue to be the Body of Christ and God's Church in the world. We encourage you to live out your faith and practice discipleship by Worshiping, Studying, Serving, Praying, Giving, Encouraging, and Witnessing. HTLC will continue to love our neighbors and

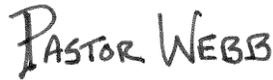
support the needs of our community. Every day is a gift from God and so we move forward in faith. Please continue to practice Prevention, Planning, and Prayer.

As we continue our Lenten journey let us use this time to trust God and remember that we are never alone (even when we adopt social distancing). May God surprise us with new faith and abundant grace as we reflect on the words of Paul who said that “suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us” (Romans 5:3-5).

Your siblings in Christ and partners in ministry,



Pastor Jasmine Tesdahl



Pastor Chris Webb