

Welcome to our church services!

Information concerning the consequences of the Coronavirus outbreak , 13th March 2020.

The church leadership are anxious to exercise wisdom and act in a responsible way to, as far as possible limit the risk of infection with the Corona Virus.

We are closely following developments and are prepared to take necessary action as the situation changes. However, as the situation stands today, we have made a number of decisions affecting the work of our church.

We will continue to send information bulletins regularly via : Local radio; our web site; Facebook, and our weekly newsletter.

The Swedish government have banned all public events involving more than 500 participants. Naturally, we as a church will be following instructions given by the National Health Services. For the moment, the recommendation is to **continue** with our church services, but take precautions to reduce the risk of the infection spreading.

Therefore: We invite you to participate as usual in our Sunday services, with the following important reservations...

1. **Most important!! - Wash your hands and stay at home if you are feeling ill!**
2. The 40th anniversary celebrations for Bjärka-Säby are postponed.
This is because of the government's ban on events involving more than 500 people. Even though we expect fewer than 500 participants, there still exists a risk of spreading infection across regional boundaries. This decision has been made in consultation with experts.
3. From Sunday 15th March, everyone will be able to follow our services via the church's web site, both visually and audibly. Our local radio will also be transmitting them.
We would like to encourage those of you who wish to participate in our services via "Internet" to invite your friends / small groups, to worship together with you.
4. From Sunday 15th March, church coffee will not be available after services. We will try to find an alternative!
5. The celebration of Communion in our Sunday services will also be "paused" until further notice. We recommend that our cell groups take "communion" in the homes instead. – Acts 2:46
6. We will not be "praying for the sick" during our Sunday services for the time being. If you are sick, we request that you stay at home and ask to receive prayer at another time, or alternatively ask for a "prayer cloth" to be sent to you.
This is an old Biblical tradition which we would like to bring back just now. We will take a cloth , lay our hands upon it and pray for the healing power of Jesus to be upon the sick person. In this way the sick person also has a physical reminder that they are not alone in their sickness, but that the church is with them in prayer – Acts 19: 11-12.
If you would like us to pray for you, then you can send an e-mail to info@pingstlinkoping.se.
We will then commit you and your situation to the Lord in prayer!
We will however, be inviting people to receive prayer and intercession at our Sunday services for other things than sickness.
7. Greet one another, but do not shake hands. We should show our respect by trying to avoid bodily contact. This will help to reduce the spreading of infection and increase safety!

8. Even if you should be taking part in the service in some way, please stay at home if you are feeling sick. Our loyalty to one another means that we show care, respect for other's concerns and in every way possible, refrain from spreading virus and bacteria.
9. Wash your hands - for at least 30 seconds. One idea is to pray "the Lord's prayer" whilst you wash. In that way your hands will be clean whilst your concerns are dispersed. Please see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vjkEb-3u1bE> Try to avoid touching your face with your hands.
10. Talk with your children about what they can do. See <https://www.krisinformation.se/artiklar/sa-pratar-du-med-barn-om-coronaviruset>

We don't want to be held in the grip of fear, but neither do we want to risk lives and health because of negligence. Everything we do should be based on love, 1 Cor 16:14. In the case of the Corona virus, it means that we should show special concern for those who belong to one of the risk groups. We should also follow the instructions given by the National Health Services.

Services in the church will take place as planned if no other information is given. We as a church will be following the recommendations of the authorities. During the National health Service's press conference which took place at 14:00 on Friday 13th March, the question of "school-closure" was taken up. A representative said " Our responsibility is not just to protect children from being infected, but even to take responsibility for the children's psychological health." Perhaps we can think in the same way about the church fellowship; it is extremely important just now. We need to function as a safe haven for spiritual help in Linköping!

More information.

The National Health Service's website has answers to most questions.

You can find most general information, questions and answers, updates on the level of risk, and other information about the spread of Corona in Sweden and worldwide.

www.folkhalsomyndigheten.se/covid-19

1177 – Sweden's guide for receiving healthcare.

<https://www.1177.se/sjukdomar-besvar/infektioner/ovanliga-infektioner/covid-19-coronavirus>