



PLAN & RESPONSE TO COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS)

FOR GOD HAS NOT GIVEN US A SPIRIT OF FEAR,
BUT OF POWER AND OF LOVE AND OF A SOUND MIND.

Update 3/18/2020

Dear members and friends of Faith Lutheran Church,

Because of the continuing spread of the coronavirus, and because of the serious threat that this virus poses to the elderly and to others with compromised health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the President of the United States, have asked that people not gather in groups of more than ten for the next eight weeks.

Our synod's leadership is asking that the congregations of the synod comply with this request. In a letter that he sent to all the pastors, ELS President John Moldstad writes:

"The ELS Catechism reminds us of our duty to our country: 'What is our duty to our country? It is our duty to love our country, obey its laws, assist its officials in keeping law and order, and promote its general welfare' (ELS Catechism, p. 56).

... I am asking that our churches suspend public services and urge following the health recommendations and restrictions of our national, state, and local governments."

The entire letter can be read [here](#). Among the suggestions that President Moldstad offers is this: "Scheduling times for private communion with members at the church, keeping in mind the need for extra precautions during this time."

WORSHIP PLAN MOVING FORWARD

Pastor, in consultation with the Elders have resolved the following:

- 1. All in-person services at church will be anceled until further notice.**
- 2. A Live Stream of a shortened service of the Word will be made available each Sunday at 9am by Pastor. In addition, Faith's sermon Podcast will continue to be made available.**
- 3. Those who desire or have a need for the Lord's Supper, Private Confession and Absolution, or in-person consolation with Pastor may schedule it by emailing or calling. We will seek to be extra cautious and careful.**
- 4. Small, periodic gatherings in which the Lord's Supper is offered at church, making sure to allow for social distancing and proper cleaning, may be made available soon, based on guidance from public health officials.**
- 5. Members are highly encouraged to make use of these resources posted on our website. It is very important at this ever-changing time to build your routine around the changeless Word of God.**
- 6. In the future, Pastor will be offering opportunities for online Bible Study.**

HEALTH OF MEMBERS

If you get sick (not merely with coronavirus – any and every time you get sick), please let me (Pastor Hendrix) know so I can pray for you and provide pastoral care.

CONTINUE SUPPORTING THE CHURCH

Please continue to support the work of the church, by either sending your offering in the mail or signing up for Electronic Giving (form attached below). Our church's continued operation, including Pastor's salary, is based on these regular offerings.

We will all be impacted financially by this pandemic, so while your amount may change, still remember to set aside your offerings as a first-fruit to the Lord, as St. Paul says, "*On the first day of every week, each of you is to set something aside in keeping with whatever he gains*" (1 Corinthians 16:2).

CLOSING THOUGHTS

During this challenging time, remember to pray for your congregation, for its members, and for me as your pastor. Try to think of ways in which you might be able to help those with special needs. Consider calling your church friends from time to time, or sending them a message through email or social media, to encourage them, and to remind them that you have not forgotten about them. And let us all pray for our country and for our world, as the human race deals with this unprecedented pandemic. There are worse diseases, but there are few if any diseases that are spread as easily as this one is. And especially for those who are vulnerable, this can be a deadly disease. We should certainly trust in God to take care of us, but we should not tempt God by being unnecessarily careless concerning our health or the health of others. St. Paul exhorts us: "*...in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others*" (Philippians 2:3b-4).

As much as we can, we will continue our life together as a congregation, as we make use of modern communication technology, and as we engage in other forms of careful and limited contact, to continue to receive from God the strength that he offers to his people in Word and Sacrament. The Epistle to the Hebrews reminds us that "[God] has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.' So we can confidently say, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?'" (Hebrews 13:5b-6).

In Nomine Jesu,
Pastor Hendrix

ELECTRONIC GIVING - GIVE SIMPLY

Mail to:
Treasurer
Faith Lutheran Church
143 Washington St., Oregon, WI 53575



I authorize Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church Oregon, WI. to initiate withdrawal entries to my Checking/Savings (circle one) account. This authority will remain in effect until I notify you in writing to cancel it in such time as to afford the company a reasonable opportunity to act on it. I can stop payment of any entry by notifying my financial institution 3-days before my account is charged.

_____ (Financial institution) _____ (Branch)

_____ (address)

_____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip Code)

_____ (Signature)

_____ (Printed Name)

_____ (account Number) _____ (Routing Number)

\$ _____ (*monthly* amount) **1st** **5th** **10th** (Day of Month for Withdrawal – Circle One)