



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.

DIVINE SERVICE

During times of fear and uncertainty, it is more important than ever for Christians to meet together for mutual encouragement and strengthening in God's Word.

We will continue to hold the Divine Service at 9:00 am on Sundays and Bible Study & Sunday School at 10:15am. Wednesday Vespers will continue as planned at 7:00pm during Lent.

HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion will continue to be offered as normal.

Regarding the Common Cup or Chalice, the CDC has stated¹:

“No documented transmission of any infectious disease has ever been traced to the use of a common communion cup.”

“Within the CDC, the consensus of the National Center for Infectious Diseases...is that a theoretic risk of transmitting infectious diseases by using a common communion cup exists, but that the risk is so small that it is undetectable.”

Appropriate safeguards – that is, wiping the interior and exterior rim of the chalice between communicants, use of care to rotate the cloth during use, and use of a clean cloth – further diminish this risk.

However, if you are sick, for the sake of others, it may be best to take an individual cup, or stay home and request a pastoral visit.

Note also that Pastor, as a matter of practice, consumes the remaining wine/blood from the chalice. In addition, the altar guild, Pastor and elders will make a regular practice to sanitize their hands before preparing and serving the elements of the Lord's Supper.

Further, the Lord's Supper is the “medicine of immortality” and the “antidote to death.” The chalice, or common cup, with its precious metal is an important and beautiful expression of, and confession that, we are made one with Christ and with each other in the sacrament. We shouldn't be thinking about germs so much when coming to the Lord's Table, but rather trust that Christ would not institute something in a way that would harm us. Christ knew there would be plagues and viruses when He instituted the Supper in this way, and yet, He gave it to us for our benefit.

¹ American Journal of Infection Control October 1998 * Volume 26 * Number 5

PRECAUTIONS

We will not be receiving offerings in the traditional way by passing the plate from person to person, but will receive offerings in the back as we do during the Paschal Triduum.

Pastor will not be shaking hands out of concern for not passing any germs on to others or his family.

Hand sanitizer is available on the table in the narthex and downstairs by the coffee.

We will clean and sanitize as much as possible, especially high-touch surfaces like the communion rail, stair rail, and door handles each week.

Please follow the same common-sense steps at church that you're being encouraged to follow in other areas of your life. Here is a list from the CDC:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick (yes, this even applies to coming to church)
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

PODCAST SERMONS & ONLINE RESOURCES

Pastor Hendrix makes his sermons available each Sunday online via podcast. You can access them via your favorite podcatcher or at faithlutheranoregon.com/podcasts

As the situation of our community changes, Pastor may seek to make the entire service available online as well via streaming.

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.

IF YOU MUST STAY HOME

If you must stay home, we do not want you to feel secluded or disconnected from the Word and Sacraments.

If you are without internet and access to our sermons, arrange for monthly pastoral home visits with communion, or at least a telephone conversation with a pastor to check-in.

Continue to support the work of the church, by either handing your enveloped offerings to Pastor at your monthly visit, or sending it in the mail. You may also give via Electronic Giving (form attached below).

PASTORAL VISITS

Pastors have an obligation and duty to their flock, in ordinary times of sickness and death, to visit, commend, bury and comfort the bereaved; the demands in a pandemic may greatly increase, and Pastor will be making every effort to do all he can in good conscience.

However, as of Friday, March 13, the UW Hospital, the children's hospital (The American Family Hospital), and the American Center (TAC near Sun Prairie) have suspended all normal pastoral visits. If there is an urgent need, the family, together with Pastor, can request for possible exceptions.

POTENTIAL FUTURE STEPS

We have no plans to stop gathering for worship, even in the event that the pandemic worsens. While how our gathering looks may change depending on Government guidelines (location, number of people), we believe that around Word and Sacraments is the best place for Christians to be especially in a time such as this.

In the case where Faith's pastor gets sick and is unable to perform his duties, a substitute Pastor from the area ought to be sought to provide continual pastoral care.

Pastors include: Pastor Eugene Kock (retired), Mike Helwig (Lakeside Lutheran High School), other pastors from Lakeside Lutheran High School, assistant pastors at congregations with more than one pastors such as Holy Cross Lutheran, Madison; Resurrection Lutheran, Verona; Our Redeemer Lutheran, Madison; Abiding Shepherd, Cottage Grove. In the event that no pastor is able to provide ongoing care, the Elders and President of Faith Lutheran Church shall serve as liturgists using Matins or the Service of the Word (pg. 38). In the event they are not able to, the duty falls to the Officers of Council, and then to the Trustees. A live-stream service from one of our ELS Churches which meets at the same time shall be pulled up on the large TV from the basement which can be brought up into the Sanctuary temporarily. [Christ Lutheran in Port St. Lucie, FL](#) streams their service at 10am Eastern, 9am Central.

LINKS FOR PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS PLANNING

<https://cs.welsrc.net/download-cs/coronavirus-bulletin-insert/?wpdmdl=3589&ind=1584040803914> — The WELS' Response to COVID-19

cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources — Basic information and resources on influenza pandemics.)

cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/archived/community-planning.html — Resources specifically for faithbased organizations.

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)

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