



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 3/16/2020

Effective as of Monday, March 16, 2020, and continuing until further notice, according to an Order by the Authority Of Wis. Stats. §252.03, The Public Health Officer Of Madison And Dane County, all public and private Mass Gatherings of 50 people or over are prohibited in Dane County.

Faith Lutheran regularly worships under 50 people. With those at highest risk encouraged to stay home, this will be even more true. Faith Lutheran Church still has a duty to provide consolation, encouragement, and rest to all who are “weary and burdened” (Matt. 11:28).

The *Order* also states, “The Public Health Officer will continue to assess the quickly evolving situation and may modify this Order, or issue additional Orders, related to COVID-19. The Public Health Officer is supportive of any event that chooses to voluntarily restrict attendees to fewer than fifty (50).” (*Order*, 8)

WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP PLAN MOVING FORWARD

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

We will continue to hold the Divine Service at 9:00 am on Sundays, for those who especially need comfort, consolation, and strengthening (Please note the following changes noted further down the page)

A Live Stream of the service will be made available for everyone who remains home (We have ordered the necessary technology, but there is a possibility this will not be ready until *next* Sunday)

Sunday Bible Study & Sunday School canceled. Confirmation will continue via live stream

The family altar should be restored in homes (Heads of households are highly encouraged to make use of the Congregation at Prayer and/or other devotional resources)

Wednesday Lent Vespers & Suppers will be canceled through the remainder of the season

All Fellowship Events of our Church are canceled (Bowling, suppers, etc.)

DIVINE SERVICE CHANGES & PRECAUTIONS

Those at high risk are encouraged to stay home. Pastor will visit them as he is able – later in the week, if possible, in order to self-monitor himself for a few days after Sunday Services. Please contact him via email, Pastor@FaithLutheranOregon.com or cell phone (608)-405-9522 to schedule a visit.

Elders will make sure the sanctuary and high traffic areas are cleaned and disinfected before church.

Every other pew will be noted as being “closed” to abide by the Dane County restriction to “Preserve social distancing of six (6) feet between people” (*Order*, 2, c, ii).

Any unnecessary areas will be closed. The back door and office door will be kept shut and not used. All guests are asked to use the main front door on Washington St.

The hymnals will be removed from the pews, and the entire service will be printed in the service folder.

Worship will be shortened to include the essentials.

The Lord’s Supper will be offered each week to our communicant members. No one will be pressured to take it, but it will be available to those who desire it. Appropriate safeguards (“silent” distribution by Pastor in order to not breath over communicants or elements, fewer people at the rail, alcohol on the purificator to sanitize the chalice in between sharing, in addition to current practices) will be enacted in order to diminish the risk of any transfer.

We will not be receiving offerings in the traditional way, but rather gather them in the back. Members are encouraged to use online giving (form attached below)

Shaking hands is discouraged.

Hand sanitizer will be readily available.

FUTURE STEPS

We have not made a determination on Holy Week worship yet. Pending the situation in a few weeks, Easter Sunday may very likely be split into two services at 8:30am and 10:00am.

Pastor & elders will continue to monitor the situation.

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

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.

STAY CONNECTED

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.

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)