

Dear Friends and Members of Our Redeemer's,

Let us pray: O Lord, assist us in this time of uncertainty. Direct the lives of those who serve us, who provide our guidance and who minister to our needs, so that they may best help us to cope with the current situation regarding the spread of Covid-19. Watch over those who are at risk, help us to best love and care for our neighbors, and prosper our efforts at mitigation as we move forward as your faithful people. Amen.

Your church council met to chart a course for our congregation beyond this past weekend's closing. As a result of taking into account as much information as possible, the council resolved to err on the side of caution and suspend all activities at Our Redeemers Lutheran Church through April 1st. We will review our situation at that time. It will likely lead to extending our suspension until the CDC says it is safe.

That means that we will not meet for worship, Sunday School, confirmation classes, midweek services suppers, quilting, circles, all music groups and any other activities at least through April 1st. Pastor Zane will also not be making personal visits during this time, except under emergency circumstances, during which he will abide by the policy of the institution or facility involved. Please call or message him with any needs or questions. In the meantime, he will be working to provide communication, support and spiritual opportunities by phone, Facebook, our church website and other means being explored in the coming days. Please watch the Facebook page, the weekly e-news or our church website for further announcements.

- The Redeemer's offices will be open and staffed as usual; however, if possible, please call before you stop.
- I will be sharing messages on Wednesdays following our Lenten Theme. These can be found on the Facebook page. I am working with Pastor Art Wiese on worship for the radio on the weekends. We are working to get all information and worship to our webpage <http://www.our-redeemers.com/>. Our Weekly e-news will also share important updates and times and places to find worship online.
- We are always concerned about those in our community who are vulnerable. If you are in need of assistance, or aware of someone in our community who needs help during this health crisis, please contact us. It is critical that as a community we continue to care for each other, especially the vulnerable.

- We are so grateful to all of you for continuing to support Our Redeemer's and its ministries through your regular financial giving. Your generosity is especially important during this health crisis to help us stay on top of our budget and to continue our ministry.

We have options for continuing to give during this time when we will not be gathering at the Redeemer's building:

- Checks can be mailed to Our Redeemer's Lutheran 800 10th street South, Benson, Mn 56215
- Options to give electronically can be found on our website, <http://www.our-redeemers.com/> Just click on the "online giving" link on the left side of the home page.
- You can drop off your offering at the church during regular office hours.

This is a very uncomfortable and stressful time for all of us. Remember we are looking at new ways to connect with God, our faith family and our community. This is a time not to panic or be complacent. Instead we are looking for ways to live out our mission statement. 1. Live in God's amazing grace. 2. We are certainly looking at new ways to welcome each other to worship and 3. Learn and serve as Christ teaches us. Check on your neighbors.

See if you have something they could use to help them get by. Ask them how they are doing. Have the caring conversations we talk about. Check in on your own family regularly. We bring the church in new ways. Taking faith home sheets will be available on the web page.

Thank you for your cooperation as we all work together to meet the challenge of a situation none of us have faced in our lifetimes. We are open to any and all suggestions.

I have been thinking about ways we can call every family in the congregation to check in, to ask if there are prayer requests, and to see if there is some way that we can be of assistance during stressful times. If you are interested in being a part of our "Calling Team" to check in with people, please contact the church office, 320-843-3151, or email us, orlcstaf@hotmail.com

I will continue to work both in the church building and remotely. Don't hesitate to call or email orlcstaf@hotmail.com or pastorzane1@gmail.com . We are a community of hope. This too shall pass.

Please sign up for the e-news by calling the church office.

I also want to make sure we stay connected with everyone. So I am asking that you please contact the church by calling or emailing us orlcstaf@hotmail.com your contact information as well as your teenagers. I will want to talk with them as well. We want to be up to date with all of you. Please include your email and phone numbers. We don't have one for many of you.

May God bless us on our journey as we continue to move ahead.

Your Church Council and Pastor Zane