



PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Pastor Jeff Silvernail
Pastor Amber Craig

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The requests and requirements continue to change as we see the numbers of COVID-19 cases continue to grow. Many of us are feeling the effects of social isolation, the stress of every family member home all the time, attempts to work from home and balance home life, the loneliness that attacks us all. Worries grow so easily as we consider not only ourselves but our family and friends who we can't see at this time.

In Matthew, Jesus tells his disciples, *"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?... So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today."* (Matthew 6:25,34).

It is no easy task to not worry, and in this time it is even more difficult. And yet, Jesus tells us not to worry and reminds us that God cares for us just as he cares for all of creation. We are in God's very capable hands, and we will make it through this with God's help.

In the meantime, a few new opportunities will begin this week, as well as some changes to previous plans due to the latest restrictions.

- All non-essential businesses are closed across the state. This includes us, so no one will be at the church moving forward. Melanie is working from home and has access to the church email and voicemail, so if you need to be in touch with her, please email or call. Pastor Amber also will be working from home and has access to her email and voicemail as well.
- Because we cannot be at the church, unfortunately we will not be able to offer communion in the upcoming weeks. It is safer to stay separate in this time. While communion is a very important part of our life together, it is not the only way that we can see Jesus in our lives or in the world. We continue to find Jesus in our midst through the connections we have with others, the way we choose to live in the world, and how we love our neighbor. Martin Luther also suggests that we daily remember our baptism, the first sacrament we received, with every glass of water we drink, shower we take, or each time we wash our hands.
- Since we are now fully separate from one another and most people are at home, we are adding a few new opportunities so that we can make connections during this time. The full schedule looks like this at the moment.

- Sunday – Facebook Live Worship at 10:30am
 - Monday – Zoom check-in at 2pm (join our “meeting” to see a few familiar faces and check in. Whoever is present will be the group, we can chat together and close with prayer. You will receive an email with directions on how to join. You can use a computer and video conference, download the zoom app to your phone or tablet, or simply call the number to join by voice only. I will send an email for each zoom check-in to everyone and you can choose to join in if you want or not.)
 - Wednesday – Zoom check-in at 7pm
 - Wednesday - Evening Prayer at 8pm. Note the time change for this one!
 - Thursday – Zoom check-in at 10am
 - Friday – look for your Sunday bulletin and FaithWorks in your email. Each FaithWorks also has a brief Bible study that you can use and if you want to send in responses to the questions we can publish them in the following week’s FaithWorks.
 - Also, watch for Hymn Sings from Jon – add your choice of a favorite hymn to one of the threads on Facebook and Jon will play them for us!
- Finally, while almost everything at the church is suspended, our Little Food Pantry is of great importance in this time. We are looking for a few people to come by and make sure it is stocked one day a week. With just seven volunteers, the pantry will be covered every day. If you are willing to help, please let Pastor Amber know. It would be ideal if you have a key to the church, but if you don’t and would still like to help, we can get you in to stock up for a few weeks and you can just keep it at home to refill on your day.

We will continue to make tweaks and changes depending on what is needed in this time. Please feel free to let the office or Pastor Amber know if you need anything. We do have a few people who have said they are willing to help with things people might need. Do continue to keep in touch with family and friends during this time, and pray. We are not alone.

Peace,



Pastor Amber