

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
3939 Cheyenne Blvd
Sioux City, Iowa 51104
712 239 3942**

March 17, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

On-site worship at First Lutheran will be suspended until further notice. In addition, all committee meetings, classes, rehearsals and events are cancelled, including for our partner organizations, AA, Boy Scouts and Co-Dependents. With the recent declarations by our Governor, recommendations by the CDC and the continuing nationwide work to limit the spread of the Covid-19 virus, we join this work as a congregation by limiting how and when we gather.

The Executive Committee of this congregation met today to affirm this decision. We will pay close attention to government and medical officials over the next days and weeks, and continue to monitor the situation.

We are thankful for the blessing of technology which allows us to communicate with you by several means. First, we will continue the radio broadcast on Sunday mornings at 10 am. Worshippers may connect through I Heart Radio or 620 am to listen to the broadcast. We will broadcast service, with a limited staff. We will provide to you by email or mail, a copy of the bulletin in order that you may worship alongside worship leaders. In addition, we are looking for ways to provide livestream on our facebook page or through our website.

Your continued financial support is essential during this uncharted time. Your generosity is remarkable. As a congregation you respond as needed in times of concern. With an uncertain future, a length of time away from worship, your continued contribution will be invaluable to this congregation. There are opportunities to give with simply giving, mail in your gift and as we move forward, we will provide more information on our website for ways to give.

We seek to continue ministry through our Food Pantry, providing a bag of groceries to those who are in particular need. Utilizing the recommended Food Bank protocol, our volunteers will follow guidelines to provide food to those in need. We will continually assess our process to ensure all are cared for and safe.

During this time of social isolation, the staff and members of the council are available and will be in touch with you. If you are worried about yourself or someone you know, please contact the church and/or your healthcare provider as is appropriate. Phone the office (712 239 3942) if you need any assistance or pastoral care and we will be glad to respond.

The evening prayer often prayed at the close the day seems appropriate during this time of concern:

O God, you have called your servants
to ventures of which we cannot see the ending,
by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown.
Give us faith to go out with good courage,
not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us,
your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

I look forward to connecting with you in new ways as together we trust in God's presence and peace in our lives. So, to be clear, do not come to First Lutheran for worship. Most importantly remember your baptismal promise....you are a beloved child of God, God is with you, God is with me, we are the body of Christ together. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Thank you for your support and your faithfulness.

In Christ,

Rev. Kristine Stedje



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.