

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

March 16, 2020

After much discussion and prayer, our pastors and church council have made the difficult decision to cancel worship services and all group church activities at St. John's Lutheran Church through Sunday, April 5. In order to protect those in our congregation and community who are vulnerable to the dangers posed by the *covid-19* virus, the church building will be on strict lock-down during this period.

We hope that we will be able to come back together for worship on Easter Sunday, April 12. However, we cannot guarantee that this will be possible. As we continually monitor the situation, we will keep you informed as to our next steps.

We are so sorry to have to do this! Particularly during times of anxiety and disruption like this, it is such a great gift to be surrounded by the love and support of our church family. It hurts not to be able to meet together. However, your church staff will do their best to offer online church experiences during this period.

Each Sunday through April 5 at 9 AM, there will be a live broadcast on the St. John's Facebook page. The video will be available on-demand after the initial streaming.

Each Wednesday through April 5 at 7 PM, there will be a live broadcast on the St. John's Facebook page. The video will be available on-demand after the initial streaming.

There will be a one-time live broadcast announcement from the Youth and Family Ministry on Wednesday, March 18 at 6 PM on the St. John's Facebook page. The video will be available on-demand after the initial streaming.

Please go to either of the following two websites and follow the links to the special worship items, sermons, and study materials we'll be offering over the next several weeks:

Our Church Website:

www.stjohnsgc.org

Our Church Facebook Page:

www.facebook.com/stjohnsgrovecity/

Pastor Patti and I will be making regular phone calls and praying for those in our congregation who are dealing with health issues, and making visits wherever possible. Please call the church (614-875-2314) and let us know if you are ill and/or hospitalized, and we will be in touch.

Our other great concern at this time is with our church offerings. This quarantine is going to have a serious impact on many people's financial situation, and the last thing we want is to lay an extra burden on anyone. I only encourage all to support the ongoing ministry of St. John's as they are able, through consistent offerings so that we can avoid a crisis "dip" in support during these weeks without worship services. As always, you can mail offerings directly to church (3220 Columbus St., Grove City), or give online via the Church Website (address above).

Finally, please know that your pastors, staff, and church council members are praying for you. Though we cannot meet with each other for the next several weeks, we are here for you at all times. Please call us with your prayer requests and concerns. And please keep our congregation, our nation, and the world in your prayers, that all will know Christ's peace, protection, and guidance as we face this crisis.

Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Seth J. Jersild

Pastor Patti Morlock

Neva Warren, on Behalf of the Church Council of St. John's Lutheran Church