

Saint Mark Lutheran Church  
Board of Directors  
March 16, 2020

It is with extremely heavy hearts that we have decided to cancel worship services through the end of March in compliance with the guidelines established by the CDC and the President. All other classes, rehearsals and events will be at the discretion of the event facilitator. It is our hope that this decision will allow our country to recover more quickly and be back to regular services in time for Holy Week. As we approach the end of March, we will evaluate our next steps.

By staying home, we are showing care and love for those who are more susceptible to this virus. In Romans 13:10, it says that, “love does no wrong to its neighbor.” It is our responsibility as Christians to care for our neighbor and in this season, this will be the way we do that. We are not acting in fear, but we are taking our responsibility seriously to keep all our members and loved ones healthy during this time. God calls us to listen and honor those in authority (including government) in our understanding of the fourth commandment (Exodus 20:12, Romans 13:1). Finally, remember that worship happens not just in a building, but anywhere two or three are gathered (Matthew 18:20). That gathering can happen over live stream video, through phone calls and inside our homes with our families. We are members of the body of Christ no matter where we are.

It is with **excitement** that we announce the offering of new recorded and live gatherings to be posted on the Saint Mark website. The “live-stream team” hopes to have a full live stream of our service this coming Sunday at 10:30AM, check the website, <https://www.saintmarkgr.org/>, for updates on this as they are available.

We are also evaluating the best way to make our Bible Studies and other meetings available for viewing and use in the next few days/weeks, but also for years into the future! We have already heard some great plans for this and are looking forward to exploring it further.

This has been an extremely difficult decision to make, but it does cause us to think “outside the box”. We are finding new ways to serve God, new ways to serve each other, and new ways to be a community. These are not replacements, but additions.

Please reach out via telephone to those around you and check on them and pray for them. Call those who you know that may not have internet access as they may not receive this email. Pray by yourself, with your family and with your extended family (yes, the phone works for that too).

Please remember that should you need any Pastoral services, including communion, Pastor Rubino can be reached at 616-648-6452, Pastor Bassett can be reached at 630-204-1570 or 269-683-5774 or you can contact Fred Plante of the Board of Elders at 616-295-7839.

Our God is awesome, and has a plan!

*“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”* Romans 8:28