

*The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
-Psalm 27:1*



March 17, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Like many, I have spent most of this week in discussions about Coronavirus precautions. Tory and I are working diligently as we learn and share information on next steps for St. Mark.

Let me begin by saying that I am not a medical professional. I am reading what infectious disease experts are writing, listening to our local medical providers, and hearing stories. This is not the reality that we want to be living in, but here we are. As a church we hope and pray for the best, and learn as we go. As anxiety and worries rise, may you know that God is present. May the grace and peace of Christ carry you through the emotions these weeks ahead will bring.

The church council will meet next Monday through video, confirming and approving our plans as to what St. Mark will do in the coming weeks.

As for the life of St. Mark right now:

- We are working on kits that will be delivered to every home, giving you tangible items for worship in the coming weeks.
- St. Mark musicians will be recording hymns, songs, and anthems that will be available online.
- We ask for your patience with us at church seeing that physical distancing will likely be recommended longer than we expected. We will continue to create ways of engaging in worship together through online sources with documents and videos. *If you do not have access to a computer, we ask that you call the church and arrange a way to receive physical copies.*
- Communication will continue via video, emails, and online posts through Facebook.
 - Please note that you do not need a Facebook account to view our page! Just go to facebook.com/st.markcp. If you would like to comment you **will** need an account.
- Continue to support St. Mark financially. Not only will our operating expenses continue as usual, new expenses will likely arise as we learn new ways to care for one another. Even though we are not worshipping in person, we will continue to worship and be in community with one another. Your financial gifts will help us continue to share the love of Christ with others.
 - We have various platforms for giving, including: online, mobile app, texting, bill pay, and mailed donations. Please contact the church if you need help setting any of these up.
 - We also ask that if you have the means to give extra during this time that you prayerfully consider doing so.
- Check in with your family and friends. Phone calls, text messages, e-mails are all so important. Even if we cannot shake hands and hug, we can still be in touch.
- Most of all: PRAY. Pray for our community, nation, and world. Pray for those who are sick, those who are isolated, and those who live in fear. Pray for our medical providers and nursing home staff who are already exhausted. Pray for scientists and researchers. Pray for leaders who will have to make difficult decisions in the weeks and months to come. Pray, and then wash your hands again.

Please know that the church extends beyond the walls of the St. Mark building. **We are the church together.** If you need any assistance during this time or a voice to listen and share with, please do not hesitate to call, text, or email. You may call the church: 763-784-2558, my cell: 612-396-2338, or Tory: 303-250-8982.

In peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Mollie".

Pastor Mollie Dvorak
St. Mark Lutheran Church