



Lutheran

## Church of the Good Shepherd

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March 18, 2020

Dear Good Shepherd Community,

How shall we live out our ministry as a community of Christ—loving God and our neighbor—in an effective, responsible and transformative way given the realities of the Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic?

Guided by our Mission and Vision Statement, and in response to the March 15 announcement by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that “in person events that consist of 50 people or more” be canceled or postponed, your Vision Council passed the following resolutions on March 16, 2020. All resolutions will remain in effect until released by the Vision Council.

- a. **In-person worship**  
There will be no in-person worship until at least April 5 (Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week). Worship will be offered online.
- b. **Food service in all forms**  
No food service will be allowed until further notice.
- c. **Sunday School and Confirmation**  
No Sunday School or Confirmation gatherings will be held. Alternative online experiences will be offered instead.
- d. **Other Church activities**  
No in-person gatherings or meetings (except AA and Al-anon) will be held at church until further notice.
- e. **Funerals and weddings**  
Funerals and weddings as in-person worship services will still be welcomed, but will need to be kept small (CDC guideline of 50 or fewer), and will adhere to the no food service and six-foot social distancing rules.
- f. **Budget and financial resources**  
The stewardship team will focus on the new realities related to COVID-19, including how to receive offerings when there is no in-person worship, and the longer-term effects of unfolding economic realities. In the absence of in-person worship services, LCGS members are encouraged to continue to support this ministry through mailing offerings and special gifts, Simply Giving commitments, and electronic transfers.

These are difficult but responsible decisions. As we grieve the losses, we also celebrate the new opportunities this reality presents. Our prayer is that this challenging time will be a stimulus for deepened compassion, spiritual growth and mission for our congregation, community and world. As our Good Shepherd Choir Director Debbie Sanders says so beautifully, “Let this be a Lent like no other, drawing us even closer to our Lord and Savior in the midst of some fear and lots of quiet. In God is Peace. In God is Love.”

Yours in Christ,

Sara Hendrickson

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