



# Hope Lutheran Church

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March 19, 2020

Dear Members of Hope Lutheran Church,

At this time of extreme concern about the coronavirus, we are faced with significant potential risks for the health of our members. Government guidelines or mandates limit large gatherings to limit the spread of the virus. In response to this situation, our Church Council has determined that church services should be suspended until government guidelines change. We will not be holding Lenten services or Sunday worship services during this time.

If we are not holding our regular worship services, how do we grow our faith? One thing you can do is worship by watching church services on television, listening to other worship services on the radio (our service will not be available on the radio), or by using streaming services on the internet or on your smart phone if you have those resources. Anyone can go to: "missions.nalcnetwork.com" and then the tab on the right: Good News! Media Resources. Go down to Good News Streaming to find congregations that do live streaming.

The decision to suspend church services has significant effects for our congregation. While we won't be holding church services, the expenses of the congregation will continue. We will still need your financial support for the ongoing expenses of the church. We urge you to continue to make your contributions by mailing them to the church office. Another alternative is to begin using the "Simply Giving" program of automatic payments to the church. Simply Giving is used for the regular giving of many of our members even prior to the coronavirus outbreak.

We encourage our members, particularly those in higher risk categories—those over age 65, or those with chronic respiratory disease, cardiovascular disease, or diabetes-- to avoid situations where you might be exposed to the virus. We also encourage those not in the higher risk categories to support our members that may need help with shopping or other activities.

This is not a time to take these precautions out of fear. We need not be afraid because we have faith. We have faith that God will take care of us. We have faith that we will return to our normal worship schedule. We have faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and that gives us confidence to face the challenges before us.

Finally, we encourage all of you to pray. Pray for the strength of Hope Lutheran Church. Pray for the health of God's people. Pray for wisdom for our country's leaders. Pray for the concerns that each of us have, whether related to the coronavirus or not. Through our faith we will succeed.

In Christ,

Charlie Holtebeck, Council President