



St. Mark Lutheran

CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

A note to the St. Mark Lutheran Church Family and Friends

Your Pastor and Board of Elders recently met to discuss how we will proceed with worship services during this flu and virus season.

We want to encourage everyone to come and worship and participate in all our activities at St. Mark, we want to also ask folks to take the necessary precautions to stay safe and to assist with keeping everyone healthy.

The CDC and other authorities continue to share with folks in the US certain precautions to reduce the risk of catching and spreading the recent worldwide outbreak of the COVID-19 virus. The Elders and Pastor encourage everyone to know and practice those precautions. Those precautions include but are not limited to:

- 1.) Wash hands frequently. Wash hands with warm soapy water for a minimum of 20 seconds. A good timing device is to sing to yourself the Happy Birthday song twice – approximately 20 seconds. If washing is not available a hand sanitizer with a minimum of 60% alcohol is recommended.
- 2.) If you are feeling sick, stay home. Common symptoms include fever, headache, weakness.
- 3.) Cover any cough or sneeze with something other than your hands. If you use your hands, please wash them afterwards.
- 4.) Minimize touching your face, mouth, eyes, and nose.

Precautions taken at church

All are welcome to communion as always to all people that agree to the statement of belief found in the front of the bulletin. However, if you attend church and you start to feel sick, we ask that you stay in the pew. If you stay home on a Sunday morning but want to take communion, please let your elder, and/or pastor know, and we will arrange to bring communion to you. If you stay home on a Sunday morning, please feel free to view the live stream of the worship service.

Pastor and the elders assisting with communion may use sanitizing wipes or agents at the altar before distribution of the elements.

As Pastor has postponed the passing of the peace in our liturgy and shaking hands as we leave the sanctuary, we should minimize all hand shaking at this time.

Please let the church office, your elder, and/or Pastor know that you are home sick. Importantly, if any of our members notice a St. Mark friend or family member is missing on Sunday, please reach out to that person and see how they are doing.

It is critical that we maintain contact with each other during this time.

It is not a time to worry and panic, but to be cautious.

Embrace God's Peace that is beyond all human understanding presented with the Gospel message.

Pastor Erler and the Board of Elders