



ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH

TO: St. Peter Lutheran Faith Community

FROM: Pastor Jennifer Michael

RE: Response to Gov. Whitmer's recent Executive Order

Dear Friends,

Today, Governor Whitmer issued an Executive Order directing Michiganders to stay at home unless they are members of the critical infrastructure workforce, performing tasks necessary to their health, such as going to the hospital or grocery store, or exercising. This order begins tomorrow, March 24, and lasts for at least three weeks.

Our own Bishop Satterlee responded to this Executive Order by imploring congregations to suspend all in-person worship services and weekly in-person gatherings until May 10. This includes weddings, funerals, memorial services, non-emergency baptisms, and Holy Week and Easter services.

In light of this information, we have decided to suspend all non-essential activity at St. Peter Lutheran until such time as it is deemed appropriate to resume normal activities. We will continue to operate Pete's Pantry with specific restrictions as this ministry is considered an essential service. However, the office will be closed, no other official activities will be planned and everyone is asked to stay away from the church building until further notice.

There is no official date at this point as to when we will reopen since this is an evolving situation with many factors to consider. But, rest assured that I, along with all of our leaders at St. Peter, are working diligently to figure out ways to be "church together" when we cannot actually be physically together.

More details will be shared in the days ahead about how we might worship together in new ways and how we can share community with one another from a distance. I will be reaching out to every member of our congregation this week to check in and hear about their needs. I also invite you to call me directly if you have an urgent need.

These are uncertain times where fear and worry hold us captive. But I assure you that God is with us in the midst of chaos. As we adjust to this new way of living, know that you are surrounded by God's love and held in in my prayers.

Bishop Satterlee shared this prayer in his message today, and so I commend it to us all to pray in unison as we navigate this ever-changing landscape...

God, our peace and our strength, we pray for our nation and the world as we face new uncertainties around coronavirus. Protect the most vulnerable among us, especially all who are currently sick or in isolation. Grant wisdom, patience, and clarity to health care workers, especially as their work caring for others puts them at great risk. Guide us as we consider how best to prepare and respond in our families, congregations, workplaces, and communities. Give us courage to face these days not with fear but with compassion, concern, and acts of service, trusting that you abide with us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

-ELCA Prayers for Times of Public Health Concerns

Peace be with you...

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Marked
with the
cross of
Christ
forever, we
are claimed,
gathered,
and sent for
the sake of
the world.