

March 20, 2020

Greeting to the faithful people of Luther Memorial Church,

A couple updates for the good of our faith community.

First, as you know already, Luther Memorial Church and Academy will be closed for two weeks which started on Monday, March 16, 2020. This means

- that church services for Sundays, March 22 and March 29 have been cancelled.
- that all meetings, committees and group events have been cancelled as well.

Second, there is a likely chance that the closing of our church and school building will last beyond two weeks. If that is the situation, you will be informed about this in the same way you are receiving this communication.

Third, our church is not required by the state to be closed, as of yet, but we will practice the social distancing as expected of us. So, people are encouraged to stay away from the building unless there is an approved reason to be here. Our church office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 am to 2 pm, but this will be to receive messages, receive the mail and to receive offerings (in mail) and pay bills. **But please know that if you have questions, need assistance, or have updates to share about your health or the health of others, contact the church at 814-454-0106, or contact us through our emails which are listed on our church webpage under the “Contact” and “Staff & Leadership” tabs.** Although our staff will not be present in the building as normal, we will be retrieving messages and we will respond to your questions or needs promptly.

Fourth, as previously stated, please make it a practice to check daily our church webpage at www.luthermemorialonline.org and our church Facebook group page. My intention is to continue to use these two platforms as the way to communicate timely information. On the webpage, updates will be found under the “News” tab and each communication will be dated so you will know what is most recent.

Fifth, again as previously shared, if you would like to volunteer to help with the needs of congregational members as they arise please contact Linda Graffius at lgraffius@luthermemorialonline.org. The needs will be making soup to be delivered to members, picking up medicines at pharmacies, or needs that are not even foreseen at this time. Again, we will need to balance helping others, while also caring for ourselves and being responsible to not spread the Coronavirus.

Sixth, I ask that you keep faithfully making your offering to the Lord. You are encouraged to consider what you would normally give each Sunday and make that same offering through the mail or through our webpage by going to the bottom of the page and clicking “Contribute Online”. Thank you, thank you and thank you.

Seventh and final, a Service of the Word for the Fourth Sunday in Lent will be offered this Sunday morning. The worship service will be posted to be seen at 8:15 am. This will be different for all of us, **but to feel like we are worshipping together I ask that you begin watching the video worship at the times of our normal Sunday worship, 8:15 am and 10:30**

am. As you begin to watch the video on Sunday morning at 8:15 am or 10:30 am, you will be able to follow along the worship by opening a Word document file with the worship liturgy. Just like on a typical Sunday morning, there will be times for congregational response, which is why it will be meaningful to know that we are responding at the same time. Of course, if you cannot watch at 8:15 am or 10:30 am please watch the worship service at a time that works for you and your family.

To watch our video worship on Sunday, March 22 you can find it in the following three places:

1. Luther Memorial Facebook Group page
2. Luther Memorial Church's YouTube Channel (go to YouTube and search for Luther Memorial Church Erie Pa)
3. Luther Memorial's Church website under the "Resources" tab and then the "Sunday Morning Worship" tab

In times like these, I very much appreciate my love of reading history, because I have learned there are things that happen to us as people that are very trying and difficult, but through those shared struggles, we come together, and all the stuff we thought that was important before, suddenly becomes not as important. All the things we have taken for granted, we no longer take for granted. All the divisions that we have participated in seem silly and ridiculous. So at the end of the trial and struggle come transformation and a new beginning. So let's never lose hope, let's be smart, and let's stick together.

Be well,

Pastor Bill Coleman