



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and School

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Rev. Timothy A. Prince, Pastor ■ Mr. Karl Sattler, Principal

March 17, 2020

Brothers and Sisters of Good Shepherd,

Faced with a public health emergency like none of us has before experienced, your congregational leaders and I, together with the recommendations of government health agencies and our South Wisconsin District President John Wille, are seeking to make the best Spirit-guided decisions for this congregation according to God's will. Pres. Wille encourages all congregations of the South WI District to comply with recommendations and mandates of government for the health and safety of everyone. With new information coming each day about the spread of the Coronavirus, as well as recommendations and mandates for all gatherings of citizens, we may need to adjust plans at any time. We seek to balance the spiritual needs of all members of the congregation with the health and safety precautions necessary to prevent or slow any Coronavirus infection among us. We appreciate and encourage all members to recognize our need for nourishment from God's Word, but at the same time we recognize the dangers that this epidemic presents. Any one of us may be a carrier of the virus for many days before any symptoms appear. There are some who, in their faithfulness to God, will want to physically attend church even though they should stay at home for their own safety (the elderly, the young, those with respiratory problems or weakened immune system). There are others who would stay home to be cautious, even though others may think they are over-reacting or being paranoid.

On Mar. 17, Governor Tony Evers mandated, per recommendations from the president's administration, that no groups of 10 or more may meet together, in order to safeguard public health. This means that we will not be able to hold worship services until the ban is lifted.

During that time, I will be putting together virtual worship service videos that will be available on our congregation's YouTube Channel. [The easiest way to get there is to go to www.YouTube.com in your browser, and in the YouTube "Search" box type "Good Shepherd East Troy". Our site will be the first result.]

These services will be complete with hymns (including on-screen words and, when available, a recording of a choir singing the hymn), Scripture readings, sermon, and prayers. This will continue to make God's Word available for the nourishment of all who tune in.

If we must cancel services as long as three weeks or more, we MAY decide to observe Holy Week (Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday) a week (or two or three) later than their normally-scheduled dates, but will keep the congregation informed of any decision to do so.

We've already had "in the works" a plan to completely update our congregation's website (www.GSLET.org), and as of today, it will be kept up-to-date with the latest decisions regarding church services, meetings, and activities. We will also keep the church's digital sign (near Highway 20) updated with service times (or cancellations). The elders will attempt to call all those whom we believe may not have internet access or devices on which to receive news.

We encourage all members to share the word with friends or relatives about the availability of worship service videos online, and ask that, as you are able, to check if they have internet access and a smart TV, cell phone, computer, or other device (Roku, Amazon Fire Stick, etc.) that can access YouTube, and help them get set up to access Good Shepherd's YouTube channel.

Please feel free to contact me at any time at either the church office or calling or texting my cell phone (402-217-5218).

As always, we pray that God would strengthen our faith to be a light in dark times, and that He will fill us with the certainty and the courage of knowing that God will provide for our needs and take care of each of us no matter what circumstances come about, so that we can be His hands and feet to help others as they have need.

Peace be with you all.

Christ's servant (and yours),

Pastor Prince