

Latest Email Update: March 17, 2020, 6:36 pm

Hello St. John's members,

In order to comply with mandates and recommendations from the CDC, Governor Walz and the Minnesota Department of Health, St. John's will cancel all worship services, classes, meals, and activities, effective immediately. The CDC recommends no activities for groups with over 50 participants or groups with over 10 participants where a majority of participants are high-risk (older adults and those with serious chronic medical conditions). Governor Walz gives March 27th as a possible end-date for school closures and restaurant/business restrictions. Future events will be determined as time unfolds and future recommendations are made.

As we started this past Sunday, we will live-stream our services on St. John's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsredwing/>). All services can be viewed at a later time as well. Tomorrow night (Wednesday), an abbreviated midweek Lent service will begin at 7 pm. On Sunday morning, we will stream at 10 am. (We will reschedule Charles Bonow for later this year.) Thank you to Luke and Stacy Wegner for producing these live streams! Additional options on Sunday mornings include the Lutheran Chapel of the Air radio service at 9 am on KCUE (1250 AM) and Time of Grace TV program at 10:30 am on KARE11.

Our LES faculty has crafted plans to share with families as they look to continue educating our students. Pastor Sternberg will explore the same for confirmation students (LES & public school), especially if the cancellations are extended. Sunday school and Bible class will be put on hold and will resume when circumstances allow.

Another piece to this is our financial stewardship. We will still need regular offerings to support the ministry of St. John's, especially if this situation continues for a longer time. Options include sending a check by mail or online giving through the church website or the GivePlus app. At the same time, we recognize that some people may find their income level reduced through the work restrictions that are taking place, and so their giving level may change. This provides an opportunity for those not affected financially to give a one-time special gift to help bridge the gap.

The office at St. John's will be open from 9-11 am Monday through Friday should you need to contact us in person for any reason. You can also contact pastors or staff by phone (651-388-2149) or email any time.

We do not make these decisions lightly, but strive to balance following all of God's commands. We have his third commandment where we show love for his Word through study and worship. We have his fourth commandment where we show love for his representatives by honoring and obeying our leaders in government. We have his fifth commandment where we show love for his gift of life and take care of our neighbor's bodily needs. With these in mind, we will be good citizens and follow our government's recommendations to protect the health of our fellow citizens while still looking for ways to feed and witness our faith. May the Lord continue to bless us in these efforts!

Pastor Engel & Pastor Sternberg