

Dear members and friends of Emmaus,

God's peace and help be with each of you in these troubled times. My prayers are with you every day and with all of God's creation that is suffering under the load of contamination and quarantine.

I had indicated in a previous communication that I would be announcing when we would be holding services on a week-by-week basis. Things have changed rapidly through the past week and it has become apparent that we should cancel all services and meetings through the end of April. This is in accordance with recommendations from the CDC, our Bishop, and our Governor.

This weekend is Palm/Passion Sunday, the coming week is Holy Week, and next Sunday is Easter. We will not be gathering for worship for any of those. But, our Bishop has said that when we gather again, we will celebrate a second Easter, and what a wonderful celebration that will be!

We are posting videos each week on the Emmaus Lutheran Facebook page and also on YouTube with a link from our website: Emmaus-Lutheran.org
We invite you to view these videos of sermons, readings and music and encourage you to invite others to watch our weekly video postings.

The loss of work opportunities has changed the whole economic frame for many, including the church. We ask that you continue to remember the church with your gifts and offerings to the extent that you are able in these uncertain times. The work and the ministry of the church continues to function and your gifts are needed to reach out beyond the walls of our church. Bless you for each gift you make. Every gift - small or large - is important as we work together from wherever we are through this crisis.

Our food pantry continues to be open on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to noon. Ken and Doreen Richardson have been keeping the food pantry stocked for those who are in need. Thom Mannebach is the only worker and no one comes into the church. Thom prepares a bag of food items and places them outside the glass entry doors. We need food and money donations to be able to continue to provide food at this time. Also, if you are able to assist with purchasing groceries for our food pantry, please call the church office (386-775-9676). Thank you.

God be with all of you, grant you patience, acceptance and understanding, and fill each of us with a longing to be together again when that time is right.

Grace upon grace,
~Pastor Mark