



March 2020

Dear Holy Trinity Community,

We have been hearing and learning a lot about COVID-19 (Coronavirus). As a faith community when situations arise, we seek God's peace and promise first, and next seek guidance for how to respond regarding our life together as a church.

Who is discussing how we will proceed as a community of faith regarding the COVID-19? Our Risk Management Team has been monitoring the virus and discussing our response. At Holy Trinity, we are currently following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), and World Health Organization (WHO) regarding the latest information and recommendations, as well as staying in communication with local public leaders and other ELCA leaders, regarding COVID-19.

How will this change our church practices? We will continue to assess the developments to see if there are changes that we need to make in our practices. At this time, we will continue to operate on our regular schedule and practices with the following guidelines as preventative measures (we will do this until the Coronavirus concern is over):

- As always, please stay home when you are sick or have signs/symptoms of illness. We will plan to continue to make church available via radio (KCHK 1350AM or 95.5 FM from 9-9:30 am on Sundays) and online (YouTube channel: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church New Prague MN).
- During worship, we encourage you to share a verbal greeting rather than shaking hands. On weeks when communion is celebrated, we will continue our practice of servers cleaning their hands before volunteering, and we will use individual communion cups and wafers when communion is shared.
- We will also make an extra effort in our building to disinfect and wipe down surfaces regularly. Please use our restrooms sinks for handwashing as often as you feel you need.

What can you do to support Holy Trinity and its healthy functioning during this time?

- Please help us to make sure our communication avenues are efficient. Please take a few minutes to make sure we have your active email (if used), address, and phone number(s) by contacting the church office. Also, if you are a Facebook user, we invite you to like and follow Holy Trinity on Facebook to receive updates through that venue.
- Please seriously consider enrolling in online giving to help our congregation stay in a financially healthy place through this season.

Where can I get more information? For more information on this virus, please refer to reputable places such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Minnesota Department of Health, and the World Health Organization. These sites will help us stay informed.

We will continue to be in communication regarding our life as a faith community as more fact patterns develop. Please lift up in prayer all those who are experiencing COVID-19, providing care, and working toward prevention.

In Christ,

Pastor Alicia

(On behalf of our Risk Management Team & Church Council)