

First Lutheran Church

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The Rev. Jeffrey B. Ewing, Pastor



November 17, 2020

Greetings, church family:

Your church council met last night to discuss the steep incline of COVID-19 cases around the nation, state and specifically in Warren County. We know the number of cases has more than doubled over the last month and that there are more positive tests and hospitalizations now than there were in the Spring/Summer.

After much discussion and with heavy hearts, council has decided to suspend in-person worship immediately through the rest of 2020. It was also decided that all in-person church activities - with the exceptions of Narcotics Anonymous meetings and our food distribution ministries - will be on hold until at least January 2021. At their monthly meeting in January, church council will assess the conditions and make appropriate decisions regarding when we can safely gather again and worship in person.

On-line worship will continue on Facebook Live and will be posted on our church's website immediately afterwards. Bible studies, meetings, etc... will be conducted through Zoom and the church building will be open for essential business only (be sure to wear a mask and call the office if you need to come in).

This is a difficult decision, and it is the right decision. Your council is doing their best to keep everyone as safe as possible during these unprecedented times and I personally thank them for their service, dedication and love they have for our family here at First Lutheran.

Over the next couple of weeks, you will be receiving mailings regarding Advent, the annual congregational meeting, and general updates. Announcements will be posted on our Facebook page, church website and through e-mail (call Jess if you would like to get on our e-mail blast list). As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me or any council member.

We have been here before. And we will be here after the coronavirus has run its course. God is in this with us and we will continue to worship and serve the Lord by loving God and loving others. Please show your love by doing what you can to keep those in our community safe – wear masks, keep socially-distanced, wash your hands often and stay in your “pod” as much as possible. Touch base with friends and family through phone calls, text messages, e-mails, and letters. Blessings to you and yours.

Shalom, *Pastor Jeff*

THE STAFF: **Mr. Jack Hemink**, Music Director; **Ms. Jessica Long**, Office Manager;
Mr. Thomas Schultz, Financial Secretary; **Mrs. Cheri Kellogg**, Director of Children, Youth and Family ministry;
Ms. Tammy Cocharane, Custodian

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