



Grace

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Saturday March 14, 2020

"For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control." – 2 Tim 1:7

God has put us on this earth to love. To love Him and to love our neighbor. It is out of love for our neighbor especially that we must be diligent in these present days at ensuring the good health of our neighbor. Thus, Grace is being proactive in regards to our response to the coronavirus concern that is around our world. We are taking the following actions at the recommendation of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and in conjunction with other local churches.

Primary Actions

- While we always work hard to keep a clean and safe facility, we will be doubly attentive to cleaning heavy use areas and keeping doors open to limit the spread of germs. We are actively looking to clean or eliminate any places or items which might be touched by more than one person.
- We will cease all congregation-encouraged hand shaking and touching. We see great value in human contact but this is for the best of all in the near future. This will include:
 - o The Pastors will refrain from all hand-shaking
 - o The Greeting of the Peace will be after the service with encouragement to share verbally only
 - o Greeters will welcome you with a warm smile and an open door in place of handshakes.
- We will encourage congregation members to give each other space in the pews and at the communion rail.
- We will encourage the ushers to be the only people touching the offering plates
- If anyone is sick or showing symptoms of any kind you are strongly encouraged to stay home and recover. You can always follow pastor's sermons on the website.
- If anyone has health in a higher-risk category we encourage you not to hesitate to stay home. We love your presence here but we also love your well-being going forward. The Pastors are happy to help you hear God's Word over the phone or a computer or a home visit.
- Lord willing these are all short-term changes and our prayers will be for God's continued providing for our safety and good health.

Non-essential Services

- For the near future the church building will remain closed during the week to all but emergency visitors. The office staff will continue to monitor the phones during

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normal hours. If you have needs or questions for the office or the pastors please use the phone or electronic communication instead of stopping by the office.

- The status of Sunday School and Sunday Bible Study as well as Wednesday Lent services and lunch is being discussed and should any cancellations happen we will share that on the website and on facebook.
- Mid-week Bible studies should inquire with their leaders as to ongoing status.
- Weekday School is seeking to continue given the small class size and the ability to keep everyone from close contact.
- Other church groups and upcoming rentals should inquire with the office, the group leaders and the trustees about whether they should continue to use the church facility.

Please continue to regularly check either the Grace website (www.gracelutheranmonroe.org) or the Grace facebook page for any upcoming announcements or cancellations.

And let us all join together in praying for the health of our community and neighbors around the world. We know God will provide and it is our persistent hope He will end this pandemic in His time sooner than later.

Blessings and peace to all.

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