

Dear Calvary Families -

2/17/20

The COVID 19 pandemic is now causing unprecedented disruption to our daily lives. We are all united in our concern to do what is necessary and prudent to slow and minimize the spread of this virus and protect the health and well-being of our community and all our member families and friends. As those who were gathered here for worship last Sunday discussed we should do our part and follow the advice and recommendations of the governing authorities and experts. We are called to care for the most vulnerable among us and while it is difficult to contemplate not gathering together each week, the needs of our community and neighbors must take priority.

To that end, the Council and I have agreed that all worship services and other activities and gatherings at Calvary will be immediately suspended. This means there will be no Wednesday programs (Soup Supper, Prayer Around the Cross Worship, WOW, etc.) and no Sunday Worship, Sunday Connections, Coffee Hour or other events at the church. We will also be closing our building and facilities to any public use, including by the various groups who rent spaces from us like Que Tal, Evergreen School of Music, Boy Scouts, and other groups.

Sue, Baird and I will be developing a plan to provide an at-home worship experience that we can all share. I don't believe we have the expertise to attempt "live-streaming" but I believe we can provide resources to each household so that we can all "gather" together at home at 10:30 a.m. this Sunday to pray, listen and remember our baptisms together. From its earliest days the church gathered in homes and as family groups. Family sharing of prayer, praise, worship and the Word are at the core of our common faith. Circumstances, hard as they are, are giving us the opportunity to reclaim our homes as centers of faith life. More details will come out on this as soon as we can put our thoughts into fuller form.

Please thank our church leaders and especially our staff for their faithful dedication to this congregation in this challenging time. Special thanks to Bonnie Rust for communicating with all our building users and guests. Please continue to pray for our whole world, for each person who faces their particular version of difficulty in living through this pandemic, and for the leaders, researchers, medical

staffs and care givers who are helping so many around us. Please also let us at Calvary know if you are in any distress and we will do whatever we can to assist. My cell phone number is below, email too. Please use them in whatever way you need.

Let us hold each other by heart, if not by hand, as we together walk this unexpectedly Lenten season.

Love and peace in Christ,

Pastor Wade R. Wacholz
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