



One in Christ Lutheran Parish
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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Dear Sisters and Brothers of One in Christ Lutheran Parish,

First of all, we extend our prayers to you and your families, for your health and well-being, during this unprecedented time of our lifetime in our world. At this time our greatest hardships seem to be the result of the precautions put in place to protect us, but we don't have to look far to see the serious health threat at hand, knowing that in time we too will experience some of that.

All events and activities of One in Christ Lutheran Parish have been cancelled through April 13th.
This includes worship, Sunday School, any and all meetings, gatherings, events – everything.

Here is how we plan to address some of ministry needs and concerns. This is fluid and we are listening to all suggestions.

Worship

There will be no community/gathered worship, this will include Easter Sunday. We are planning to “live-stream” worship at 10:30 am beginning this Sunday, March 22nd via YouTube Live. It will be saved on YouTube – on the One in Christ channel and we will put a link on the One in Christ Facebook page. If you would like to see a bulletin and announcements – it is on the One in Christ webpage, under the events tab and is on the One in Christ Facebook page. We are new to this and we will learn as we go.

Community Life

We are used to being together ... seeing and visiting one another. That will not be happening for a number of weeks. We will be lonely. We need to strengthen our community in spite of the current situation. If we have ideas we will share them. If you have ideas, please share them with us. Suggestion, when you watch the “live-stream” or the saved worship, think of five (5) people you know you would have seen at worship – and call them that day. Think about those that are totally isolated from all others ... and call them.

Community Care

We cannot gather nor be with one another physically, but we can still be there emotionally and in spirit and over the phone/facetime/etc.. Be there ... we need community. Pray for one another. Call one another. Write a note (or email ☺). Maybe we can figure out how to have a visible conference call and have a virtual “cup of coffee” with one another as a group. Now that is scary and we would quickly say I don't know how to do that. I don't either ... today ... but I will tomorrow. We have some time on our hands, so let's learn together.

Visits/Crisis

We need to practice “social distancing”, that means we can't visit one another. That includes us as pastors – to be responsible, we can't make visits as well. This includes hospital and care center visits as well, in fact they have shut their doors. Please keep us in the loop on these matters. If it is a crisis, we will break the rules as we can, and we will try to be there.

Funerals

Not what we really want to anticipate, but it is a concern. Technically, we can have graveside burials, but not more than 10 people can gather. That ten includes the funeral director, pastor and person attending the grave – that does not leave many open spots for family and friends. If we need to bury the body, we will bury the body with a limited gathering. What the funeral homes are doing, are planning public funerals/memorial services two months out. Burial of ashes can be done then.

Finances

In many ways our world has come to a halt, but not our bills. As a parish, we still have salaries, utilities, insurance and other expenses. When we gather for worship, we are reminded of this opportunity and responsibility to give when we have the “offering”. In these coming weeks, our financial vitality will be very vulnerable. Please remember to give your financial support to your congregation.

- You can send gift as a check to your congregation.
- You can make use of our online giving – it is simple. Any one of the following ways.
 - Load the Tithe-ly app on your phone
 - Go to One in Christ Lutheran Parish webpage and hit the “Donate” button.
 - Enter - tithe.ly/give – on your internet browser. Online giving can be a one time gift any time you want to give or you can set it up to have regular withdrawals from your account.

Easter Celebration

Our current plans are to re-start gathered worship April 19th and have an Easter Celebration on Sunday, April 26th.



If we have learned anything these past two weeks, we all know plans can change from one day to the next. Tomorrow we will know more than we know today, and we will adjust accordingly.

We are open spiritually, even if we have to be closed physically.
God is with us! Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ!
That is what God has promised.

In our Lord's service and ministry,
Pastor Bill & Pastor Randy
One in Christ Lutheran Parish