



March 17, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It is with a heavy and grievous heart that I write this letter to you. After much prayer, discernment, and consultation with church council and based on the most recent CDC recommendations, and in light of Gov. Tom Wolf's order that all non-essential places in Pennsylvania be closed for two weeks over COVID-19 concerns, **Jordan Lutheran Church is cancelling worship services and all other events for the next 2 weeks (through March 31st)**. The Congregation Council will closely monitor the situation to determine if the cancellations will extend beyond this period in conjunction with the full recommendations of the CDC and the governor.

We as Lutherans recognize the church and our faith is essential to the spiritual well-being of all. We also know that a church building does not define who we are. We are to continue (as safely able) to reach out care and serve others. Continue to gather as we can electronically, phone call and emails. Take time to pull out your bibles and read scripture. Pray... pray often that this virus is defeated quickly so we may be reunited soon! Pray for the medical staff, the elderly, those whose health is compromised, for parents dealing with children at home, for the marginalized, those worried and feeling anxious, for businesses shut down, for church leaders, for your council, staff and pastor. Pray...

In an effort to keep congregation members informed as we navigate through these uncertain times, we are sharing the following important information:

- **The church building is CLOSED for all activities, meetings and sports and NO WORSHIP SERVICES or MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES will be held through March 31st.** The situation will be re-evaluated at that time and we will communicate updated information as available.
- As of now, the church office remains open, likely on shortened hours. Please call ahead if you plan to stop by as this may change without notice. Communication, if necessary, is best by phone or email. Both will be monitored even if no one is physically in the office.
- At this time, **the Food Pantry will continue to operate on its regular schedule** (1st & 3rd Monday of the month, 9-11 am and the 1st Wednesday of the month, 6-7 pm).
- We are looking for a few volunteers to possibly do errands (pick up groceries, prescriptions, etc.) for members who may have compromised health situations or are homebound. Please contact the church office if this is something you can help with. If you are aware of someone who needs such assistance, please let the church office or Pr. Dody know.
- Here is a link to the live stream worship from last Sunday, March 15th: <https://www.facebook.com/jordanlutheran/videos/207646527122638/>
- **Please join us for a virtual worship service on March 22nd and March 29th, at 10:30 a.m.** I will be broadcasting on Facebook Live. For those who do not have Facebook, a link will be placed on our webpage later that day.
- I will attempt to also do a Wednesday evening prayer vesper service (spoken) at 7:00 p.m.
- For those who have sponsored flowers for the Sunday worship services have been (or may be) cancelled, please be assured we will be happy to either re-schedule for another date or give you a refund if you've already sent payment.
- **Please consider mailing in your offering or sign up for electronic banking to stay current as we continue to do ministry in a new way during this physical distancing and that we might be financially strong when we return.** You may use the attached form or for more information, contact the church office.

In closing, remember that during this time of Lent while we may be physically separated, we are united together in the one body of Christ through our baptism. We are reminded that we are not alone in this unsettling time in our life; that Christ tells us "I am with you to the end of the age."

Thank you for your patience, prayers and understanding as together we will get through this. Please stay healthy, stay in touch with your sisters and brothers in Christ here at Jordan and your community.

May the peace that surpasses all understanding be with you now and always!

In Christ's love,

Pastor Dody

The Rev. Dody S. Siegfried