

French River Lutheran Church



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

"To live and love as God commands, accept His Grace, and share the Good News."

Brothers and Sisters,

I was hoping that this day would never come, but the recommendation of our Synod and government leaders is that we need to suspend worship as normal. As I am sure you are aware, every day the news and recommendations are changing from all the various forms of leadership. Please know that I will continue to monitor the recommendations. As soon as it is prudent, we will return to normal. Be prepared for this to be an extended amount of time, which is the goal of the quarantining that we are hearing about. It is meant to slow down the spread of the virus so as to not overrun our healthcare system, not to ensure that we all do not get sick, which may or may not happen. Please know that at no time will the church's doors be closed to you. Through this time of anxiety and isolationism, if you feel the need to come, sit, reflect and pray, you are able to do so. Pastor will continue to be available for consults and prayer needs as normal, but I urge you to also reach out to one another for comfort during this time. I also will be available to return calls with questions as they come in.

Based on all of the guidance we have been given, our congregation will be taking the following steps:

- All gatherings at church will be restricted to a maximum of 10 persons in accordance with the latest recommendations. **Soup Suppers and Sunday Service are temporarily halted.**
- We ask that anyone that is feeling ill, presenting signs of upper respiratory issues, or has had contact with someone that does, please stay home, to not spread this virus around.
- If small groups do meet at church, please take the following precautions. Members of the group should try to stay 6 feet away from each other, wash hands thoroughly as necessary, and when exiting the building, please grab a wipe and clean the surface of all door handles and areas the members of the group have touched. (These will be located just inside the doors.)
- Pastor will continue to offer sermons each Sunday, but rather than in person, they will be recorded and uploaded to the church website prior to Sunday morning. We are also looking into offering some form of video recording of the sermon (more to come on that later).
- Pastor will continue to offer visitation but this may not be in person, depending on the situation. This is to be worked out between Pastor Mark and the congregant on a case by case basis.

The following resources are available for you to keep up to date on the Synod's response to this virus season:

Our church audio recordings - <http://www.frenchriverlutheran.org/site/audidownloads.asp?sec id=180019402>

Synod websites - <http://www.nemnsynod.org/> and <https://www.elca.org/publichealth>

Yours in Christ,

Ken Peterson (Council President)

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