



# Bethany Lutheran Church, ELCA

We reflect Christ in message and actions.  
76 West Crystal Lake Avenue Crystal Lake, IL 60012

815-459-2690  
www.bethanylc.com

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## Bethany Lutheran Church response to COVID-19 Update

*For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.  
-2 Timothy 1:7*

Dear family in Christ,

Our Lenten theme of Wilderness calls on the idea of “connections” this week. Given our current wilderness of COVID-19, connecting has taken on new shape and meaning.

**In response to the official guidelines by our state and health leaders we will suspend all formal worship services and large gatherings until further notice as our situation evolves.**

During this time, it is with great pastoral care, that we assure you that *you are not alone*. Let us take this time to pause and reflect on how we connect in different ways that are intimate and meaningful. We have outlined our top objectives that have always been our priority and how we intend to fulfill those in these coming days.

### 1. **Bring people the Word**

- a. Provide live streaming of a service on Sunday at 9 am on our Facebook page
  - i. We will consecrate communion and provide the readings, Gospel, and sermon with reflective music.
- b. Continue as we have been video recording of the service which will also be made available on our YouTube channel later in the day or early in the week.

### 2. **Receive the Sacrament**

- a. The church building will be open during the week for prayer, quiet reflection in the sanctuary or library and communion from either a pastor or staff member.

### 3. **Pastoral Care and Outreach** to our members and the community

- a. Particular attention will be addressed to those most vulnerable during this time.
  - i. Wellness checks for elderly via phone
  - ii. Solicit volunteers to assist in courier services for basic medical and or food needs – for those who become homebound without other assistance
  - iii. Continued support of Good Samaritan and Food Pantry assistance
  - iv. Continued contact from our staff via email blasts, videos, and other opportunities as we explore ways to connect to each other and the ministries of the church.
- b. *Your communication is a critical tool to help us reach out.* Please help us be made aware of those in need. By contacting the church via phone 815-459-2690 during daytime hours or after-hours emergency:  
Pr. Cathy’s cell 815-451-8716 or Pr. Paul’s cell 815-404-7248 or for emails see below.

#### 4. **Receive Offering for Continued Ministry**

- a. You may choose to bring your offering in to the church during normal daytime hours of 9-3 pm.
- b. You may mail your offering in.
- c. You may use our online giving [CLICK HERE TO ONLINE GIVING](#) (button can be found on bethanlc.com website home page)
  - i. which is set up for one time giving which you do not need to sign in or remember a password to give
  - ii. OR you may sign in with a login or set up a profile to set up continued frequency offerings.
- d. All offerings will still be attached to your envelope number
- e. Simply Giving member donations will continue as scheduled

**God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. – Psalm 46:1**

#### **We send you in the wilderness with prayer and the knowledge that Christ is with us all.**

O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted, grant courage and hope. Where anxiety is infectious and widening, grant peace and reassurance. Where impossibilities close every door and window, grant imagination and resistance. Where distrust twists our thinking, grant healing and illumination. Where spirits are daunted and weakened, grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams. All these things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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#### **Please pray with us now. . . where you are**

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors remember those who are most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility of taking care of our children when their schools close remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips remember those who have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market, remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country, let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors. Amen.

**Peace and Grace,  
Bethany Lutheran Church**

**The Rev. Catherine Daharsh**, Senior Pastor

**The Rev. Paul F. Cannon**, Associate Pastor

**Bethany Gola**, churchoffice@bethanylc.com

**Jody McKesson**, frontdesk@bethanylc.com

cathy.daharsh@bethanylc.com

paul.cannon@bethanylc.com

**RuthAnn Poppen**, ruth.ann.poppen@bethanylc.com

**Sashire Ayares**, christianeducation@bethanylc.com