

Dear Members of St. Matthew,

Our Board of Elders and Pastors met Wednesday night to plan how to function as a congregation for coming weeks during the coronavirus health crisis:

- Because the CDC recommends public gatherings be less than 10 people, all regular activities at St. Matthew Lutheran Church are cancelled or postponed until further notice. This includes regularly scheduled worship services, Bible studies, and fellowship activities.
- The Voters' Assembly scheduled for Sunday, regarding a call for a Director of Family Life, is postponed until further notice.
- We respect the authority God has given to our government leaders as they seek to care for His creation. Our church leadership and pastors wish to respect our civic duty, and partner with the community in overcoming the coronavirus which may affect our neighbors.
- For the safety of our church staff, we request that members avoid entering the church unless a visit is arranged in advance with them.
- We will continue to use the church website, email, automated phone calls, and our Facebook page to keep you informed, providing you with updates and resources. *If a member of your family, or a friend of yours in the congregation, is not receiving these emails, this means we do not have their email in our computer system. Please provide us good contact information and preferred emails by contacting Tamy Dotson at secretary@gracefaithlove.org.*

Our Pastors will continue to provide you with Word and Sacrament ministry during this time.

- Online worship services will be made available through social media (Facebook, You Tube, church website) as early as this weekend. You will receive additional information on how to easily access the media by the end of the week.
- Both of our pastors have created new resources to help you be in God's Word at home and with your families. Please check the "Bible study" page on our church website—under the **Grow** menu—to listen to these new daily podcasts.
- Holy Communion will be offered to St. Matthew members. The Elders and Pastors are working through the details, which will involve small groups of people gathering for communion at church. Each service will be limited to eight communicants who must sign up in advance. Additional information will be communicated soon.

As Christians, we fear, love, and trust in the Lord above all things. We have true hope and comfort through Christ's promises to us, and we look to Him as our Deliverer and Savior.

Thank you,

The Board of Elders

For spiritual care, contact Pastor Otto at 816-916-4935 or Pastor Andrews at 816-678-9152

P.S. Through the church website, Pastor Andrews will soon be providing a list of ways that you can love and serve your neighbor even during this time.