

March 27, 2020

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As you know, COVID-19 is spreading rapidly throughout the world. Since we are all capable of catching and then spreading the virus, it is important that we take precautions to protect others and to avoid potentially overwhelming the health care system for those who need treatment and care. Based on recommendations from the CDC and Minnesota Department of Health, temporarily we will be changing how we do programming at New Life Presbyterian Church. While things are uncertain and we may feel discouraged, God is at work in this and New Life will seek new creative ways to keep our community connected to each other and the Lord. We will continue to fulfill our mission of “daring to live in Jesus’ transforming love.”

Here’s what that means:

- All in-person group meetings will either be cancelled, postponed, or be held in an online platform through the end of April.
- Sunday worship will not be possible in person until at least April 26. However, services will be available online live at our regular 10:00 AM time on our Facebook page (facebook.com/NewLifeChurchRoseville) and website (newlifechurchroseville.org). Sermons will be available online even if you don’t arrive promptly at 10:00 AM.
- Our church continues to operate. The phone will continue to be answered. If you have a faith concern you can still call our office and Pastor Riz will get back to you.
- Session continues to actively work, meet remotely, and make decisions for our faith community.
- Devotional books are still available at the church and will be mailed if requested.

Jesus calls us to care for the most vulnerable in the community. We believe the steps we are taking to protect those most at risk are important ways to show our love for each other. Being sequestered into our own homes does not mean that we cannot be a church community--we are still here for each other.

Ways you can help:

- As a church body we need to pray. Please pray for those infected by COVID-19 and their families, our healthcare workers, our leaders, and our community.
- Be optimistic. This will pass and our church will survive. We are lucky to live in Minnesota where the health care is outstanding and our leadership is taking charge.
- Be informed. There are excellent resources such as the Minnesota Department of Health’s guidance.
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html>

- Call a church member to check on them. We are part of the same family. Please connect with each other. One suggestion is for everyone to call two church members.
- We are exploring a variety of different options to keep everyone connected from calling trees to on-line bible studies to chat groups and on-line game nights. We need your ideas! Please call 651-488-5581 or email the church at info@newlifechurchroseville.org if you can think of some good ways to keep our community in touch with each other.

During this time, please remember that your congregation continues to need your financial support. Even though you may not physically be worshiping on Sunday, know that Pastor Riz, New Life's staff, and Session continue to work hard to keep our community strong. Consider mailing your contributions directly to the church office or sign up for electronic giving.

With church doors closing across the globe, it is time for us to show that the church has never been about the building. We are the church!

We should be concerned with what is going on in the world. But remember that we belong to Christ. "The Lord is my light and my salvation—so why should I be afraid" (Psalm 27). "This I declare about the Lord: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; He is my God, and I trust Him (Psalm 91). God is good.

In Christ,

New Life Presbyterian Session