Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I hope this letter finds you well. The elders and I have once again met to discuss the plans for worship services at St. John. Due to the continued presence of the coronavirus, state and federal guidelines, and concern for our fellow brothers and sisters, we will remain closed through the month of April (unless things change). I will keep you informed. Please know that it is with great sadness that we are cancelling services, especially Holy Week and Easter Sunday. The same reasoning that led us to cancel last month is still in play – obeying civil authority AND love of neighbor. But rest assured we WILL gather together once again in the near future to celebrate our Lord and Savior and enjoy fellowship with one another! I am looking forward to that tremendously! I hope you are too.

Please know that I will continue to record services, including Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. You’ll find them on the St. John website ([www.stjohnatwater.com](http://www.stjohnatwater.com)). In addition, Roland Johnston is recording the Sunday services, as usual, and making DVD copies.

I know these are challenging times right now, so know that if you have any pastoral needs, please give me a call. I can be reached at 320-469-1366. I can stop by for a visit or you are welcome to stop by the church. Even though services are cancelled, the church is still open.

I invite you and your family to enjoy some of the following resources to use for personal and family devotions:

[www.lhm.org/dailydevotions](http://www.lhm.org/dailydevotions)

[www.kfuo.org/daily-chapel](http://www.kfuo.org/daily-chapel) to listen to daily chapel services from the LCMS International Center

Also, please check out the St. John group page on Facebook for church updates and daily devotions from President Matthew Harrison.

Please remain fervent in prayer for our leaders in their decision making, doctors and nurses who care for the sick, the sick and the suffering, and those who have suffered job loss. Remember that through all this, we can be confident in our risen Savior who has conquered death and the grave.

“And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. And he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him.But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you” (Mark 16:5-7).

Pastor J. Christian Strickland