



Reaching. Connecting. Encouraging.

To provide hope by reaching out and connecting people to Jesus through the Holy Spirit and encouraging them to share the same Good News.

Dear St. John Lutheran Members,

Over the last week we have experienced rapid change in how we can conduct corporate worship services at St. John because of the CoVid 19 virus. We have tried to keep you informed of the necessary changes we had to make in order to meet the guidelines that have been ordered by our state and federal government while at the same time attempting to gather together in some way to hear God's Word through email, the church's website www.stjohnlux.com, and on the church's Facebook page. We realize not all of you have access to these modes of communication and so that is why we are mailing you this letter.

If you do have an email address and have not received an email from the church so far, please email the secretaries at stjohnlux@centurylink.net and ask to be added to the email list so that we can update your contact information and include you in future emails.

With the state and federal restrictions on public gatherings and out of respect to the health of our community, we will not have in person church services until these restrictions are lifted. The elder's of our congregation have decided to cancel our Wednesday evening Lenten services and will only offer a streaming service at 8am Sunday mornings. You will be able to watch and participate in that service live at 8am on the church's Facebook site, or you can watch a recording of the service after 9am on the sermon and Facebook Live tabs of the church's website www.stjohnlux.com. We will not be streaming the separate services at 10:30 or on Monday night since you can watch the recorded service instead. I will try to have a Lenten devotion on Facebook and the website in place of the Lenten services.

Our next communion service will be Palm Sunday. The polka service and brunch have both been cancelled because of the restrictions. After much deliberation with the Elders of the church we have decided to encourage those who are able to watch the services at home to at the appropriate time in the service have some type of unleavened bread, such as crackers, tortillas, pita bread, etc., and wine or grape juice out for each member of the family. I will speak the Words of Institution and will encourage you to speak the same Words of Institution at home over the elements that you are going to use, and then we will all commune together in mind but not in body. I realize that this method of communion is not the preferred way, but it was the safest way we could come up with that had the least danger of transmitting the virus to others and still allow us to take communion. I don't have any special powers that turns the elements into Christ's body and blood. It is the grace and power of Christ that does this. After this situation is over, we will go back to our regular way of doing Communion, but we're trying to do the best we can in the situation.

On a practical note to keep the church going we are also bringing back online giving so that people can support the church through this time of upheaval. You can currently download an app for you phone called GivePlus and we will soon have a link on our website for the online giving as well. You can also mail in offerings if you prefer. I realize a lot of people are being impacted financially by this crisis, I'm just putting this information out there if you are in a position that you can still do offerings at this time.

I have added to the website and our Facebook page a daily devotion called Five Minutes of Hope to just refocus us on the cross in the midst of this crisis and try to help combat the sense of panic that can set in from it. Please encourage each other as much as you can throughout these times. If you know of a member who doesn't have email or access to the internet please call them and let them know what we are doing and possibly invite them over to watch with you if you can.

Throughout these times please feel free to call me on my cell phone at 9205361041 or email me at this email. I'm praying for all of you.