

Hello First Lutheran Family and Friends. Lately we've had a lot of questions and concerns regarding corona virus. You can find some basic information about best health practices to prevent the spread of it and other diseases at [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov). One of the main concerns is around large public gatherings and many people have begun to ask how First Lutheran will respond with the interest of those who are at risk.

The tenth chapter of the letter to the Hebrews reads, "Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day approaching."

These words have been at the forefront of our thought as we've considered our response. How might we continue to gather together for worship? How might we continue to encourage one another in love and in good deeds? What opportunities might we have to continue to gather to know Jesus, and serve to make a difference in light of this public health concern?

Building on our 70 year tradition of drive in worship we have an opportunity to gather for worship while still being considerate of our neighbors who may have major health concerns. Until further notice we will be having one drive in worship service on Sundays at 9:30 starting this weekend March 15th.

Our strides with livestreaming over the last several years will provide another opportunity to gather online for worship. Saturday evening's 5:30p.m. worship services will be livestreamed with the pastors and worship team being the only people present in the sanctuary, and will be posted online for viewing thereafter.

Similarly the Wednesday night Lenten services will be livestreamed from the sanctuary at 6:30p.m. with the pastors and worship team being the only ones physically present. This also means that the meals prior to the services are canceled. We'll also have some instructions (video?) for you regarding how to get the best experience when livestreaming our services and how to go about setting up automated giving or to make an online offering.

We're sad to see these many fellowship opportunities that we enjoy go on hold for a time, but we also look at it through our mission statement as an opportunity to serve our most at risk members and our neighbors by providing worship services that won't create a potential health concern in light of our present circumstances. They're also a great opportunity for you to practice worship in your home and to grow in your understanding of what it is to be God's church beyond the walls of our church building.

Jesus asked the question, "Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your lifespan? Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and he will give you everything you need. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

Our main focus is the gospel of Jesus Christ. As we continue to navigate how to best do that please regularly visit our website [3cross.org](https://www.3cross.org) for updates on worship, Confirmation, Sunday School, and small group gatherings.

"May the peace of God which surpasses all understanding guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." Amen.