

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Please read this important news from Immanuel Lutheran Church and School

- ❖ School Update
- ❖ No public worship
- ❖ Reception of the Lord's Supper
- ❖ Offerings and gifts
- ❖ A note of hope

In Joshua 1:9 the Lord directs the children of Israel by telling them, "be strong and courageous, do not be frightened and do not be dismayed." If ever we needed to hear those words it is this week as we deal with the sweeping changes to our every day life due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In light of Governor Pritzker's decision Illinois and the guidelines shared on Sunday by the Center for Disease Control and the latest direction from the federal government along with an abundance of caution by the ministry team here at Immanuel Lutheran Church and School we are putting into place the following measures which will impact life here in our church and school until further notice:

- ❖ School Update

Our students in the Day School will participate in distance learning as teachers share helpful resources and tools for education with their students. On our social media platforms we will share devotions for students and their families so that we might continue centering our lives on Jesus and His great love for us. Our school office will close on Tuesday, March 17. Please continue to call the school number to leave messages about students and other needs and these will be directed by Mrs. Kamp to the appropriate person.

- ❖ No public worship and Livestream opportunities for Wednesday and Sunday

We are cancelling all of Immanuel's public worship services until further notice. We will continue to provide worship opportunities via our Livestream for you and your family. We will be broadcasting a midweek Lenten worship on our Livestream beginning at 11:00 Wednesday morning. For information about the best way to subscribe to our free Livestream account you can follow this link:

Those Lenten worship services will be shared on our 8:00 Sunday morning radio broadcast on WRMN 1410 AM. Instead of gathering for worship on the weekend we will share via Livestream a worship service at 10 AM each Sunday morning which you will be able to view from your own home or mobile device. This worship will include both traditional and contemporary music and will feature the sharing of Scripture, prayer and confession as well as a sermon from one of our pastors. As always, these worship services will be archived on Livestream for you to watch when it is convenient for you.

While we honor and respect the choices made by our government and health officials as directed in the Fourth Commandment we also remember the Third Commandment which directs us to honor the Sabbath Day and keep it holy. We hope many of you will use these Livestream worship opportunities and radio broadcast as a vital part of our life together as the body of Christ.

- ❖ Reception of the Lord's Supper

We are currently reassessing our ability to offer the Lord's Supper for our members. Keep checking back here on the website for the latest updates as we try to figure out the best way to share the Sacrament with you.

- ❖ Offerings and gifts

Our church office will remain open from Monday through Friday and we welcome you to make use of the sanctuary for prayer and devotion during that time. We also encourage your faithful and generous support of our congregation which can be done through our online giving page located at: <https://bit.ly/39WJF7S>. We know that in these difficult times God remains faithful and so whatever support you offer to the ongoing work of the church is such a blessing to those

who serve here but also for the ministry we continue to offer in our community. You can bring your offerings when you receive the Lord's Supper or mail your offerings into the church office.

❖ A note of hope

While life as we know it is changing—it will not change us—we will remain firmly grounded in the hope that is ours in Jesus. We will continue to rejoice in His forgiveness given to us by dying on the cross and the hope of heaven which is ours because Jesus rose from the dead. We will actively pursue opportunities to be the body of Christ here in this corner of God's kingdom as we love our neighbor and as we focus our ministry on worship, outreach, religious education, discipleship and stewardship for in Jesus alone we have the WORDS of eternal life.

Earlier this week, Mr. Gade reminded our staff of the days of Noah. That ancient prophet had no sense of how things were going to end up when God promised He was going to send a flood. All Noah trusted in was the faithfulness of God to see him and his family through each day. The Lord gave Noah strength to build that ark and the Lord directed the animals on board but even as the rain began to fall, Noah had no idea what his world would look like once the rain stopped falling—he simply trusted that the Lord who sends the rain would also bring the rainbow—and that is just what God did for Noah. It is what God will do for us in the midst of all that is happening around us. Be assured of our prayers for you during these difficult days. If you need pastoral assistance do not hesitate to call the church office at 847-428-4477 and you can also contact us through Immanuel's website: www.immanuel-ed.org. Continue to reach out to the pastors and other staff—we are here to help and to serve as best we can.