

# St. Matthew Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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Dear Friends in Christ—

Grace to you all, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord, Jesus Christ.

A reaction is different from a response. A reaction happens immediately, may not be thought out, and—if we're honest with ourselves—is usually neither helpful nor kind.

There have been many reactions to the threat of COVID-19.

After consultation with the Elders, for the saints God has given into our care, here is our response:

Through at least April 1<sup>st</sup>, we will provide several, abbreviated services on Sunday mornings so you may hear and receive God's Word and promise. These services are limited to ten people (nine plus the pastor). There are sign up sheets in the Narthex for you to use. If you are unable to sign up but would like to, please call Pastor Holt, and he will do so for you. Services begin at 9am and run every half hour until noon. Plan to arrive exactly on time.

We will also provide a livestream of the 9am service. As many congregations plan to stream services, we plan to avoid as much "local internet interference" as possible by streaming when others are not. Details are still being worked out, but the stream will be done either through Pastor Holt's personal Facebook page or YouTube account.

As a Christian congregation, we are responsible for preaching the Word—in (COVID-19) season and out. St. Matthew Lutheran Church is and will remain "open." Please join us.

And, as Christians, we are also tasked by God through our vocations to take care of the many and various responsibilities God has given us. If your responsibilities require you to stay home, watch the live stream. Otherwise, **"let us not neglect to meet together as some are want to do but encourage each other all the more as the Day draws near"** (cf. Hebrews 10:25).

Opportunities for Bible study, also by means of a livestream, will also be made available. The necessary technical details are still being worked out, but the current plan is for Bible Study to be Sundays at 1pm and Wednesdays at 7pm. We're going to study the book of Job and answer the question "Why does God allow, give, and/or cause suffering?"

Finally, if you are aware of anyone who is in need, please contact Pastor Holt. Also, if you are available to help, please contact Pastor Holt. **"The crowds asked Jesus, 'What are we to do?' And He answered, 'Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise'"** (cf. Luke 3:10-11).

God grant you all the peace that is in Christ.

Pastor Holt  
3.18.2020

