



March 14, 9 a.m.  
Dear friends in Christ,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As expected there are new developments since yesterday at this hour. The Church has always been a refuge in times of trouble, and--unless things change dramatically--we will continue to hold our scheduled worship services. The main message I have for you is: Do not be afraid. Instead, be smart! With that in mind, here are some additional temporary adjustments we are making to our life together.

1. In our Christian education programs we follow the Marshall School District. Sunday school will therefore be suspended in the weeks from March 18-April 3, and confirmation will be held online with some homework included. Confirmation parents, I will email you separately about how we'll do that.

2. The sanctuary and narthex will be thoroughly sanitized before each service by a volunteer cleaning crew. (Please let me know if you'd like to help.) This involves wiping down every possible surface people could touch, so know that when you arrive you will be entering a clean environment. Of course we still encourage you to wash your hands when you arrive and use the available sanitizer. We all know by now that washing your hands thoroughly at every opportunity is by far the best defense. Regular soap does the job just fine.

3. For now, communion will be distributed by "continuous flow" to avoid being in close proximity with one another. We tried this once before and most didn't like it, but it is the best option at present. And the result is the same!

4. I really do not like the term "social distancing," but this is being recommended when people do gather. We know the virus cannot travel more than 6 feet from one person to another. So seat yourselves in church as you like, but know that, whatever the physical distance between us, we are always bound together by God's living Word and by our common vocation as Jesus' disciples.

If you are one of the 40% who has not yet opened yesterday's email, please see that for other news including the postponement of our Spaghetti Dinner. These updates are also posted on our web site with links from Facebook. Please "like" us there if you haven't already so you can follow our news.

"Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God." (Isaiah 41:10)

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Raabe  
[pastor@holytrinity-marshall.com](mailto:pastor@holytrinity-marshall.com)