



Gethsemane Lutheran Church
 N6095 U.S. Hwy 41
 Wallace, MI 49893 (906) 788-4234
 E-mail: Goffice@gsslutheran.org

Our Shared Mission: We are saved by grace through faith to share the good news of the Gospel with all people and live God's love by our words and actions.

Reverend Brenda L. Greenwald
 Phone/Text: 720.989.8218
 E-mail: Pastor@gsslutheran.org



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
 S214 Willow St
 Stephenson, MI 49887 (906) 753-4932
 E-mail: Soffice@gsslutheran.org

Friday, March 13, 2020

Dear Friends in Faith,

We write to you today to update you on our **ministry's current plans** to respond to the expanding healthcare and economic crisis posed by the COVID-19 virus and its spread across the world. How fitting that we find ourselves in the midst of our **Lenten journey**, meandering through the wilderness, but with our eyes and heart always focused on the **cross**.



At present, our intent is to continue to practice our core, community ministries of **worship** and **prayer**, until the health situation changes in such a way to cause us to have to make necessary changes. Pastor Brenda and the leadership of both Church Councils are **monitoring** County and State advisories, and will work to balance our commitment to health and safety with our ongoing commitment to provide excellence in caring and faith for all people.

What will CONTINUE

(as of 3/13/20)

- Worship on 3/15 at both G and S
- S Council Meeting: 3/17 at 6pm
- G Council Meeting: 3/19 at 6pm
- Worship on 3/22 at both G and S
- Joint Worship on 3/29 at St. Stephen's
- Food Pantry Operations
- Office Hours
- **God's never-ending LOVE**
and holy protection



What is SUSPENDED/CANCELLED

- Confirmation, Faith Formation Classes
- Wednesday Soup Suppers
- Wednesday Worship
- Wednesday Classes
- Passing of the Pew Pads
- Fellowship Time at Both Churches
- BINGO at Roubal's for S Members
- **We are suspending all WORRY**
and opting for prayer and calm



What is being MODIFIED

- Our **Offering Plates** will no longer be passed. Instead, please **place** your weekly offering in the Plates upon entering or exiting the Sanctuary.
- The **Baptismal Font** has been emptied of its water for the time being. You can still remember your Baptism by tracing a cross upon your foreheads.
- **Holy Communion** will be served in individual, disposable cups of wine, and both Congregations will receive the wafer while **standing** (*no kneeling at the rail*).
- The Sharing of the **Peace/Farewell** will be by SMILE or WAVE only (*no contact*).
- **Sign-up Sheets** will be in the back of Church/Fellowship Hall (*not passed in the pews*).
- Pews, door handles, light switches, etc. are being wiped weekly with **Bleach Wipes**.

For now, we urge our entire community to adopt **common-sense hygiene**, appropriate to each person's medical and health status, and to do all we can together to mitigate and minimize any chance for any needless spread of illness. Choosing to **stay home** from worship may be the best choice for you and your family. Know that you'll be **missed**, but covered in **grace** and **prayer**.



Our **phone/text numbers and e-mails** are listed below if you have questions or concerns at any time. We are in this together, folks – reach out at any time. We will share any cancellation or postponement notices:

- on the **answering machines** at both Gethsemane (788-4234) & St. Stephen's (753-4932)
- on the **Front Doors** of both churches, and
- on the **Facebook** pages of each congregation.

As a people of **faith**, we also encourage one another to be prayerful and resolute, prudent and sensible, and always committed to the Gospel, which is our **duty** and **delight**. We leave you with a **prayer** from our Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton:

God, our peace and our strength, we pray for our nation and the world as we face new uncertainties around coronavirus. Protect the most vulnerable among us, especially all who are currently sick or in isolation. Grant wisdom, patience, and clarity to health care workers, especially as their work caring for others puts them at great risk. Guide us as we consider how best to prepare and respond in our families, congregations, workplaces, and communities. Give us courage to face these days not with fear but with compassion, concern, and acts of service, trusting that you abide with us always, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In Christ, our Healer and Hope,

Rev. Brenda Greenwald – Pastor@gsslutheran.org – 720.989.8218

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Pete Thoune, St. Stephen's Council President - ppthoune@gmail.com - (906) 235-1787