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Grace & Peace to all of you in these uncertain times. Without doubt you have been watching with interest and deep concern as the situation around Covid-19 shifts on a daily, even hourly basis. Over the past two days I have been in regular communication with colleagues and listening carefully to the advice and directives of our health authorities. I have also benefited from the support and thoughtful insights of our Chairs of the Leadership Team (Brett & Bruce) and the staff (Becky & Deb). Together, we are working to find the best path forward for us as a community of faith. Although our approach will need to be flexible and responsive to the ever-changing circumstances, there are a few steps that will need to be implemented immediately.

Our Lenten gatherings, both the Ecumenical worship & breakfast and the evening Inter-Lutheran services, will be cancelled. Our Sunday morning worship services will also be discontinued indefinitely. In addition, all gatherings at the church will be suspended until further notice.

Taking the following measures is important as we strive to keep ourselves and the wider community healthy and safe. We realize, however, that these provisions will create more stress and heightened anxiety for many. In times of uncertainty, we are used to coming together; offering a hug; and comforting each other with our presence (and some good food 😊). The tough part, in our current situation, is that most of our customary responses to human need are now the actions that are being strongly discouraged. A concern for me, is that as we socially distance ourselves we will be faced with the pressures of social isolation.

Realizing that all of us will find the days ahead uncertain and stressing, we will be working to find new ways of keeping our community connected. Plans are in place to keep the church office open from 9 am to 1pm, Monday to Friday. Please do not hesitate to call and to stay connected. I will also be available for pastoral care visits as required. If you are feeling unduly stressed, anxious or down, please give us a call. We will also be using emails, our website, Facebook and video conferencing in new ways. It is important that we not only keep ourselves physically healthy through this time, but that we tend to our spiritual, emotional and mental health needs as well.

Thank-you for your patience and understanding as we navigate these uncharted waters together. In a time like this, the theme verse from our summer VBS comes to mind. May they be words of promise that give us strength, courage and hope.

‘When you pass through the raging waters, I will be with you.’ Isaiah 43:2

Thanks be to God!
Pastor Trent