

Dear Members of the Trinity Family,

Trinity's Executive Committee, composed of Amanda Mast, Donna Potts, Philip Wessinger, and me, met yesterday afternoon to determine what our life together in community can safely look like over the next several weeks. Given the information we have about the spread of COVID-19 and the projections available to us from reliable sources, it appears that this crisis will likely worsen in the coming weeks. It is with a heavy heart that I write this to you. In order to protect our congregation, our neighbors, and the wider community, all activities, events, meetings, and groups (with the exception of feeding programs) have been suspended for the month of April.

We will gather at 10:00 am each Sunday via a live-stream only service beginning this Sunday, March 29 and extending through the end of April. This means, of course, that we will not be able to observe Palm Sunday and Holy Week in the ways in which we are accustomed. It also means that we can not be physically present together in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord.

My colleagues and I are in the process of meeting to discern how we can best provide meaningful worship that will enable all of us to experience the joy, beauty, comfort, and hope of the Lenten and Easter season. We are also exploring ways that we can stay connected with one another without the benefit of being physically together in one place as well as ways that we can minister to many in our community who do not have the social support or financial resources to manage the overwhelming challenges that this global pandemic brings.

I must also share with you that this time in our life together presents significant challenges for our church finances. On behalf of our Executive Committee, I ask you, as an act of trust in God's care and provision, to continue giving as you had planned so that Trinity can continue to be a beacon of love and light in the Greenville community. Gifts may be made online via www.trinitylutheran.ws, by texting TLOGIVE to 73256, or by mailing checks to the Church Office. I give thanks to God for your love and support of this congregation through your prayers, through your acts of kindness and deeds of love, and through your financial gifts.

I ask for your prayers for my colleagues, for our congregation, for our neighbors, and for me in these days of fear, anxiety, and uncertainty. God is with us and will never leave us or forsake us. My prayer for each of you is that you will feel the power and presence of God in your life in concrete, tangible ways and that God will give you the wisdom and strength to extend love, care, and kindness to all in your path. It is a comfort to know that we are on this journey together and that God is walking with us every step of the way.

Love and blessings to each of you,
Pastor Susan Crowell

