



March 11, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings to you in Christ's name.

I write this e-mail to inform you of some steps that we have taken at St. Paul's in response to the spread of the flu and the coronavirus. These steps include:

- **Pastors washing hands** prior to Communion distribution (this has always been done)
- **Assisting Elders washing hands** prior to Communion distribution
- Installation of **hand sanitizer dispensers** in all school and church buildings (months ago)
- Pastors not shaking hands as they greet people after worship services (began last Wednesday)
- Lenten dinners being served by **individual servers** rather than everyone helping themselves and thereby touching the serving utensils (begins this Wednesday)
- **Classrooms sprayed with disinfectant** that is electrostatically charged, causing it to stick to surfaces and kill germs effectively (began late fall)
- **All building interiors sprayed** (including ministry building and sanctuary) with same procedure (next week)

Please be assured that we are monitoring the news to be informed about the spread of these viruses and will take more extreme action if it is warranted. I hope you agree that while we do want to take prudent, responsible steps to safeguard everyone at St. Paul's, we also do not want to overreact with unnecessary and drastic measures that only increase anxiety levels. We pray for all who are impacted by these viruses and for the medical personnel who are treating them. As the Psalmist reminds us, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).

Thank you.

Pastor Thomas

Rev. Dr. Glen Thomas, Senior Pastor
St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School