



March 19, 2020

Communication Regarding Word and Sacrament at St. Paul's

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings to you in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

As you may be aware, St. Louis County has now mandated that no more than 10 people are to be present at public gatherings in an effort to stop the spread of the coronavirus. In response to this action, St. Paul's is ceasing on-site worship services until further notice, but is also initiating the following resources for you to receive Word and Sacrament ministry, beginning this weekend:

Online Worship

Each weekend, a pre-recorded service will be available on the St. Paul's website (<https://stpaulsdesperes.org/>). A worship bulletin will be available to view or download by clicking on a "Resources" button below the video. Each service will include a sermon, prayers, children's message, a link to Sunday School materials, and additional talking points that can be shared in each household.

Opportunities to Receive Communion – Pre-registration Mandatory

The pastors will be leading 15-minute opportunities for confession/absolution and the receiving of Communion on Saturday and Sunday. These opportunities will be offered on Saturdays, 5:00-6:00 p.m., and on Sundays, 8:00 a.m. – Noon. The opportunities will be limited to 10 people in each segment, including the pastor. They will be offered simultaneously in the sanctuary and the gym. Pre-registration is mandatory and people may register on the church website (<https://stpaulsdesperes.org/>) or by calling the church office (314-822-0447). If needed, additional opportunities will be made available during the week and publicized to St. Paul's members.

Offerings

Without corporate worship services, it is easy to forget our tithes and offerings. I invite and encourage you to mail your offerings to the church office. Or, you may also give electronically using [this link](#). The work of Christ continues locally and around the world. Please continue to give generously, and as you are able, in support of God's mission.

Pastors' Bible Class

All Bible classes will no longer be offered on Sunday morning. The Pastors' Bible class, however, will be pre-recorded and will be broadcast at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday by KFUE (850 am). It can also be heard online on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. at www.KFUE.org.

Prayers

Your prayers for your congregational leaders and pastors have been and continue to be very much appreciated. There is no manual to follow for times like these and we are making daily adjustments to try to accommodate changing conditions.

Comfort

Finally, in the midst of all the unsettling news, God would have us remember precisely what Moses told God's people in his final address to them prior to their entering the promised land: "The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms" (Deut. 33:27). God will lift you up in His everlasting arms and will continue to be your dwelling place, your refuge, and your strength!

Pastor Thomas

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