

March 30, 2020

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I greet you in the name of our gracious God, who was, is, and continues to be our “refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (Ps. 46:1).

### **Post-Coronavirus Easter Services**

While I do not know when it will be, I trust you share my desire to have a massive celebration of the most important day in human history – the day Christ rose from the dead! We will have such a day at St. Paul’s just as soon as it is safe for us to do so. Please watch for more details to come.

### **Elders Calling Member Households**

I am delighted to report that our Elders are making phone calls to all member households in our congregation to inquire if there is any way we can help during these incredible times. That help could include going to a grocery store or pharmacy for an elderly person and/or someone with health complications. I am so grateful for our Elders and for their servant hearts in our midst. Please welcome their phone calls and please let them know if you need help. We have people ready and willing to respond.

### **Help Others**

We have people ready to assist elderly people and/or those who have physical challenges by going to the grocery store, pharmacy, etc., and shopping for them. If you would like to be included on a list of people who serve in this way, e-mail [Sharon Shearman](#) or [Leslie Rudzinski](#), or call the church office (314-822-0447).

### **Those Who Need Help**

While our Elders will be contacting you, if you are in need of help with shopping or have other physical needs, or know someone who does, please register on [this form](#), or contact either [Sharon Shearman](#) or [Leslie Rudzinski](#), or call the church office (314-822-0447). Sharon and Leslie will be matching-up those who need help with those who can provide help.

### **Online Worship Recordings**

On Wednesday, we will add an online video recording of the final midweek Lenten service. In the coming days, we will add recordings for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter.

### **Additional Communion Opportunities – Pre-registration Mandatory**

Due to having 171 of 180 slots filled for Communion distribution last weekend, starting this week, Communion will also be available on Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00 p.m., in the sanctuary. This is in addition to the Saturday and Sunday sanctuary offerings. We continue offering Communion in groups of no more than 9 communicants during 15-minute segments. It is important to be present at the beginning of the time segment since a brief order of service is followed. I and Pastor Thomson are exercising extensive measures for physical distancing and sanitizing. Those wishing to pre-register for the coming weekend may do so by clicking [here](#) or calling the church office (314-822-0447).

Please do not register to receive Communion more than once per week.

If you or a family member is sick, please stay home.

If you or a family member has recently traveled to an area in which there is a significant concentration of the coronavirus, please stay home.

### **Pastors Bible Class**

We are continuing to offer the Pastors Bible Class which examines the Scripture lessons for the next Sunday. It is pre-recorded and can be heard Sundays at 9:30 a.m. on KFUE radio, 850 AM, in the greater St. Louis area, and online at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays at [www.KFUE.org](http://www.KFUE.org). Archived audio files of this class are available by clicking [here](#).

### **Pastoral Care**

During these challenging times, your pastors are here for you. Please contact [Pastor Thomas](#) or [Pastor Thomson](#) and we will do our very best to provide pastoral care, even if it means using unconventional means.

### **Thrivent Gift-Matching Offer**

The offer by Thrivent to match \$1 for every \$2 offered to Lutheran entities until June 1 or until the \$1 million fund for this purpose was exhausted has ended (predictably) within a very short time. The \$1 million fund for this purpose was quickly depleted. I hope within the near future to report to you how St. Paul's was blessed by this generous Thrivent initiative.

### **Offerings**

Please remember to submit your offerings in support of the mission and ministry of St. Paul's and Christ's mission around the world. You may mail in your offering, or give online by clicking [here](#). We have had to make some staff adjustments and I am hoping we can avoid any additional changes going forward.

### **Masks for Lutheran Senior Services (LSS)**

There continues to be a shortage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as goggles, gloves, gowns, and especially face masks. One solution that has been identified is homemade face masks. At LSS communities, these homemade masks would help to conserve commercially made masks for staff caring for residents and will provide an emergency supply should it be needed. If anyone would like to make masks for LSS, this YouTube video ([www.lss.today/masks](http://www.lss.today/masks)) contains a face mask tutorial created by a LSS community. Labeled boxes are outside of each LSS community's main entrance where masks can be dropped-off. Community staff will ensure the face masks are appropriately sanitized for use. If you have any questions or would like to coordinate someone to pick up face masks, please contact Gina Timme ([Gina.Timme@LSSLiving.org](mailto:Gina.Timme@LSSLiving.org) or 314.373.4094).

### **Comfort from God's Word**

As God comforted and encouraged His people through the prophet Isaiah when they were facing challenging times, so He comforts us: "Do not be afraid, for I am with you. Do not be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand" (Isaiah 41:10).

God's abundant blessings in all things!

*Pastor Thomas*

Rev. Dr. Glen Thomas, Senior Pastor