

March 18, 2020



Platte Christian

Reformed Church

To Know Christ • To Be Like Christ • To Share Christ

520 Wyoming Avenue - P.O. Box 386
Platte, South Dakota 57369
605.337.3572 - plattecrc.org

Dear Platte CRC Family,

As you well know, things change quickly in our current situation as we prepare to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic. Our priority remains preparing without panicking. We are changing our response for two reasons. First, this past weekend, our nation's Center for Disease Control (CDC) issued a request that gatherings in the U.S. be capped at 50 individuals for eight weeks, and then President Trump advised gatherings be capped at 10. This is out of respect for these voices and the calm and measured (not panicked) experts who advise extreme social distancing *before* the spread of this pandemic is known. In addition, we have a loving concern for the well-being of our community and region, and especially the staff at the Platte Health Center, who could become overwhelmed with cases quickly if precautionary steps are not taken.

Moving forward, we will *not* be having our ordinary worship gatherings for at least the remainder of March. In lieu of ordinary worship, we ask you to gather on Sunday as families or friends in your homes for a time of worship and prayer. We are encouraging our members to make use of the following arrangements as a way of still worshipping together:

1. For members with internet and technological capabilities:

- On Sunday morning, a video recording of Pastor Drew's message and any other necessary prayers and announcements will be posted on our church website at www.plattecrc.org/sermons. Any evening message will be posted in the afternoon.
- A document will be e-mailed, and posted to our website, providing an Order of Home Worship, with prayers, passages, and song recommendations for you to work through together. This will have instructions for an offering as well. In this way, even if we are separate, we will worship *together*.

2. For members equipped with scanners:

- We will broadcast worship services at the usual time. Nothing will change for you.

Though as of this writing there has been no confirmed cases of Covid-19 in the Platte community, our understanding that many infected persons do not experience symptoms for several days. If you do experience respiratory symptoms, such as cough, fever, sore throat, unusual achiness, and shortness of breath, please contact the Platte Health Center.

A few ways to help: If you know of someone who could use a scanner, please contact either Larry Hansum or Duane Meyerink. In addition, if you or someone you know requires material assistance during this time (i.e. financial, meals, rides, supplies picked up), please contact your district Deacon.

Please pray for the Lord's guidance for our city, state, country and world's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please pray for the protection of vulnerable lives. Please pray for healing for those who have been infected. And please pray for the wisdom of our Council, and the leadership of all organizations, as together we navigate our way through these strange waters, confident in our Lord who controls the wind and the waves.

On behalf of our *Ad hoc* Church Health Team [Elder Leon Sprik, Deacon Bob Middendorp, Dr. Jerome Bentz, Darrel and Mary Kraayenbrink],

Pastor Drew