

To: The Members and Friends of Northminster
From: Bob Jordan, Lead Pastor

Below is my weekly update on the life and ministry of our congregation during this season of physical distancing. I am so grateful for our congregation and the many ways that you are representing the love of Christ to each other and to our community and beyond.

Ministry Is as Ministry Does We've wisely shut down our building in accordance with state guidelines and in our shared desire to support our community and especially those at higher risk from the Coronavirus and those working in our health industry. Yet our ministries are very much up and running! From phone calls to video chats and from YouTube playlists to individual prayers offered from home, our congregation is staying connected, lifting up one another, meeting needs as they arise, and finding ways to minister to the people in our community.

Participating in Lent before Celebrating Easter
Lent is a season of preparation in anticipation of Easter. It began on Ash Wednesday (Feb 26). We're using Galatians 2:20 as our guiding verse:

I have been crucified with Christ.
It is no longer I who live,
but Christ who lives in me.
And the life I now live in the flesh
I live by faith in the Son of God,
who loved me and gave himself for me.

Consider taking one line each day and meditating on its meaning and implications. Easter is on April 12 this year, but the truth of Easter is relevant every day!

Updates from Our Mission Partners

Mission agencies request prayer. You can access their latest information through their websites.

[Dream Center Peoria](#) – DCP has rescheduled its *Serve the City* event for September 6.

[Peoria Rescue Ministries](#) – PRM, which works closely with those who are homeless in our community, is in need of large bottles of hand sanitizer, N95 masks, surgical gloves and Lysol spray.

[Southside Mission](#) – The Southside Mission asks for prayers of wisdom as their Leadership Team meets daily at 9:00 am.

[YPM](#) – I've included a letter that we've received from Rev. Wilian Cen Colli, the Executive Director for YPM. See below.

Announcements

Making Masks – A team of Northminster folks is making "base" face masks to be used by those working in nursing homes and by firefighters. Needed materials: flannel, tightly woven cotton, ¼" elastic. Contact Karen Rutan (kmsrutan@yahoo.com; 309-579-2989).

Praying for those Battling Addiction – Please be praying for those battling additions. With the inability to gather for group meetings and increases in stress, the temptation to regress rises.

Serving Our Neighbors – Please pray for your neighbors. Be ready to share the reason for your hope. Offer to share supplies as you practice physical distancing.

The Building Remains Closed – Northminster facilities remain closed until further notice. If you need access please contact our Director of Operations Keith Petran (keithp@northminster.us; 309-253-0928).

When Anxiety Mounts The world, including our corner of it, is experiencing stress-inducing days. If you find your anxiety mounting, or are concerned for how your children might be processing these days, click [here](#) to make use of a helpful CDC online resource.

How to Give to Northminster

Checks can be sent to the church office, where the mail is picked up daily. You can also give online via our website (www.northminster.us) or through our church app. Call Keith Petran with any questions (309.253.0928).

Sunday Worship Look for an email and a push notification Sunday morning with the link to this Sunday's worship service playlist.

That should be enough for this week. My goal with these updates is simply to keep you informed. Let me know if you have any questions (boj@northminster.us; 402.943.8218)!



Letter from YPM to Its USA Board Members:

Greetings to All

Today in the midst of this pandemic, it touches us (sorry for the literal translation but I can't find a better way to say it in English) to experience the love of God that heals, restores, and pardons.

Today, when in the comfort of our limited buildings where we thought we had everything, God reduces us to our homes with our families or alone, in order to show us that our family is our first church.

Today, as part of the body of Christ, it touches us to speak of his love for us, that even though we are sinners, he loves us and sent his son Jesus Christ to die for our sins. Psalms 62:5-8.

There is an infinity of lessons to learn for those of us who believe that God is in control and that our peace comes from knowing who He is and what he wants from us.

I encourage you so that we might walk through this stretch (of time) with much expectation of what He is going to do, which without a doubt will be for good.

My family is good. We have been together for a week. Willy and Andre's schools have sent them home for a month without classes. We are happy to be together and are trying to enjoy it in many ways without leaving the house.

At YPM University, we decided that all students would take classes online, and this Saturday we will give training to the teachers to teach them how to use the platform.

The churches that I minister to (Tres Reyes, Kilometro 80, and Solferino) have cancelled any type of gathering or group activity for a month, and we created groups on What's App for the church in order to send them devotionals every day and on Sundays they will receive an audio of my sermon so that together with their families they can have a time of prayer and teaching from the Word.

The construction of the building continues. Last Thursday we poured half of the roof. The construction looks beautiful.

And for you who are familiar with Leona Vicario and its people, I want to tell you that this situation is going to affect all those who work in tourism, hotels, restaurants, stores, companies, etc. They are laying off their staff or reducing salaries to 50%, and if this does not get back to normal soon, the people will lose hope and security will be affected.

I know that you, like us, are waiting to see what will be the end result of this and how calm will be returned. But as I said at the beginning of this message, all we can do is to pray and to trust in God and to keep working while observing the recommendations they are giving us to avoid getting sick.

We pray for each of you and your families, and please carry our greetings to your churches and pastors.

With much love,

Wilian, Erly, Willy, and Andre