

Precautionary Measures Regarding the Spread of Infectious Disease

*Put your hope in the Lord,
for with the Lord is unfailing love
and with him is full redemption. – Ps. 130:7*

There are more and more confirmed cases of the Coronavirus occurring in our country each day. There is no reason to panic. We trust in Christ's mercy to see us through this and all the sorrows of this life. It seems unlikely that it will not spread, but it is possible to slow it. Slowing its spread will be of great benefit to those most vulnerable as it will allow the medical community more time to prepare and also the system to be less clogged. The following website provides the most up to date information for the state of Michigan:

<https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/>.

You may also be interested in track what is being advised through our Michigan District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The following link will take you there:

<https://michigandistrict.org/resources/pandemic-resources/>

For the short term, at least until Easter, we will implement the following strongly recommended procedures at Trinity's public worship services and ask for your patience and cooperation along with your prayers.

1. **No hand shaking.** The pastor and ushers will be in the Narthex and Welcome Center before and after services as usual, but we won't shake hands.
2. Please wash your hands vigorously and often and try to restrain yourself from touching your face. We will have hand sanitizer available around the building for your use.
3. The purificator that is used to wipe the chalice between sips will now be soaked in an alcohol solution. The inside of the chalice is a sterile environment. Please do not touch the rim of the Chalice. Only use your hand on the base of the chalice to help the pastor guide it to your mouth.
4. The Pastor, Altar Guild and the Elders will thoroughly wash their hands before setting up and distributing Holy Communion.
5. The offering baskets will not be passed during the worship service, but will be placed at the entrances of the church that you may deposit your offerings as you enter or exit the church.
6. We encourage you to make use of the online giving app *Givelify* that can be easily accessed with the following link: <https://www.givelify.com/>. You may also contribute by clicking the give button on our website at the following link: <http://www.trinitystjoe.org/church/donations>
7. We are anticipating a financial hardship during this time of the coronavirus pandemic and would urge you to consider increasing your regular contributions or set up automatic giving, which can occur whether or not you are able to attend church. Amy and I use *Excel in Giving*, with great satisfaction: https://mi-cef.org/about/top_article/excel_in_giving
8. The following will be cancelled until after Easter:
 - a. Lenten soup and bread suppers
 - b. The Mobile Food Truck
 - c. Community Dinner
 - d. SAGES
 - e. Thursday morning Bible Study
 - f. Refreshment time after worship
9. **If you have flu symptoms or a severe cold, please stay home.** You can hear the sermon on our website, if you can't be here. They are uploaded by Monday afternoon at www.trinitysj.org, by clicking on 'church' and then 'sermons'. If you need a pastoral visit, please contact the church office.

Sincerely,
Pastor Roth