

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

## Redeemer Lutheran Church Update



Grace and peace to you,

As COVID-19 (coronavirus) is now impacting the Twin Cities area, we want to act with an abundance of caution by prioritizing the health and safety of all who enter Redeemer's building space. This includes those who worship at Redeemer, our staff, our building partners (such as LADC and the Lyngblomsten staff), and any visitors who come through our doors on a regular basis.

While many of us are healthy and at lower risk of contracting COVID-19, we want to act out of love for our neighbors, particularly those who are most vulnerable in our community. Of course, we have people of many age ranges and health conditions who come to Redeemer each day. We encourage you to follow the guidelines outlined by the CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> along with state guidelines:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/action.html> for prevention and treatment of this virus.

The recent declarations by our national and local government leaders of peacetime emergency and the increased concern over the spread of COVID-19 has led us to take the following precautions:

- **Our Sunday morning worship services will be offered online only through at least April 1.** Our Wednesday evening Lenten activities, including our CNO meals will also be cancelled during this time period. At this point, we are posting our Sunday morning worship services through Facebook live. We will expand our online services to give more people access as we are able. Please check our website or Facebook page, or call the church office for more information about accessing our worship services online.
- **All Redeemer group activities through April 1 are canceled.** Please contact the main office if you have any questions about activities at Redeemer.
- **Our building will be open for critical care services, funerals, LADC students and staff, and other necessary operations.** Redeemer's pastors and staff will be on site during this interim period. If you have any questions or concerns, we ask that you contact the church by phone. In-person visits will be limited to our core team members as those meetings become necessary. Out of care for our church staff and LADC students and staff, we ask that you contact the church by phone or email. Our staff will use technology and our phone lines as we work to find creative ways to minister and care for the people of our faith community and the broader White Bear Lake community.
- **Congregational care** will continue to check-in with vulnerable populations. Pastors have implemented restricted visiting procedures but will continue to be on-call to meet your spiritual needs. Please do not hesitate to contact the church if you have any needs.

Redeemer's leadership will continue to make decisions utilizing the best information we have from the CDC, other health organizations, and other governmental leaders. Sometimes, these decisions change swiftly—think of how quickly the change was made by our state's leadership to move from keeping schools open to closing Minnesota public schools. We ask for your patience as we continue to make updates to keep our community safe.

**Please note:** As we work to stay up to date with safety recommendations and look at some out of the box ways to be church during these times as we seek to care for your faith and community needs, the leadership of our congregation is also aware that we need to keep up with our financial obligations to sustain Redeemer's ministry, facilities, and staff. Your financial support is needed now as much as ever as we will not be able to collect in-person offerings. If you have not considered online giving before now, we ask that you consider that method of giving moving forward. Please call the church office if you would like to learn more about online giving.

As we are encouraged to stay at a distance from one another to keep our bodies safe, as a faith community, we are deeply aware that we were created for relationships—with God and with one another. (See Matthew 22: 36-40) Those relationships can help sustain us emotionally and spiritually, especially during times when there is uncertainty. We will continue to pray for you and for all of the people of our world whose lives have been changed by COVID-19. We ask that you continue to pray for us as well. And I will reiterate, if you have any needs at this time, be it a need to talk to someone, help getting groceries or other necessities, or anything else, don't hesitate to call the church. We love partnering in ministry with you and we want to serve you as well as we can throughout the coming weeks.

In Christ,

Pastor Nate, the Redeemer Staff, and the Redeemer Leadership Team

