



Important Ministry Update – Our New Normal

Friends and Members of Our Savior Lutheran Church and School,

God is stretching His church and moving us out of our comfort zone and into uncharted waters. We are certain He will use this for His glory, and confident of His gracious presence with us.

While we made every effort to gather for worship on Sunday while honoring the mandates and recommendations of our government, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention announced that people in the U.S. should avoid gatherings of 50 people or more for the next 8 weeks, and President Trump further announced a revised request for no public gatherings larger than 10 people. Our governor has ordered all restaurants, coffee shops, and other public gathering areas be closed. Online-based Remote Education has begun in many families across the nation, and many are working from home.

Our faith and trust in the Lord is unshaken. **“We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.”** (Hebrews 6:19). The Lord tells us, **“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”** (Isaiah 41:10).

We will continue to provide Word and Sacrament Ministry as faithfully as we can in these tumultuous times, as we know that we need God’s Word and the encouragement of the Body of Christ as we care for each other.

However, our delivery of Christ and His gifts will look different in the coming weeks. Our mission remains the same – to Learn, Live and Share Christ. But our methods will adapt to our circumstances.

Here is what you need to know.

Live Stream Worship Only

Starting tomorrow, Wednesday March 18, all services will be Live Stream Only. There will be no opportunity to be physically present for our services, but we can all watch them online and be united in our worship – even as we are each in our own homes. Wednesday worship will broadcast at **7 p.m.** and Sunday mornings will be broadcast at 9:30 a.m. (one blended service only). www.oursaviorlansing.org/livestream.

Online Worship is nothing new to Our Savior, and most have watched a Live Stream service before. This past Sunday, we had hundreds of people watch the service via Live Stream! And it is encouraging to think that more people heard God’s Word proclaimed over the Internet on Sunday than at any other point in history.

We are also already set up for Online Giving (www.oursaviorlansing.org/giving) and Text2Give (517-268-8220), and many of you have already taken advantage of that. We will need to rely on your generosity and offerings to the Lord’s Work for us to provide support for the ministry in this new situation.

All Live Events Cancelled

Until further notice, we are unable to hold live events on our campus. This is a difficult decision, but we want to understand our circumstances, honor the authorities, and love our neighbor by doing whatever we can to slow the spread of the virus.

This currently impacts events through Easter, and in the coming weeks we will have to assess extending that to events through April and possibly into May. As you know, this is an ever-changing situation, and we will try to communicate as much as possible.

Home-Centered, Church-Supported

We have amazing resources for building up our faith and our families while at home. This is an amazing age of technology, where we can encourage each other, learn, read, share, and access spiritual material. Our teachers are amazing at finding resources for families to use to grow academically and spiritually. Our Family Life Minister Dave Wright, our Music Minister John Horak, and Vicar Mussell are eager to provide home-based faith resources to our congregation. We have very talented tech support with Josh Wyatt and Becky Grocki, and our office staff remains ready and able to serve our ministry in the new setting. We are thankful for these servant leaders and their heart for the Lord and His people.

Please watch for additional faith resources from Our Savior Lutheran Church and School, including podcasts, links, music, devotions, and service opportunities.

While many small groups may not decide to meet, or meet remotely, we will continue to provide the Small Group Study Guide as a resource for small group, family, or individual Bible Study.

Care Groups

So many members of our congregation are connected to each other in groups – whether in small groups, music groups, service groups, etc. Let's call on each other, check in with each other, and support one another as we go through this change. Share with your groups if you have any needs. Let's work creatively, cooperatively, and lovingly to serve our neighbor and share Christ's love during these days. We have such an opportunity as the people of God to reflect the light and love of Christ when our world really needs it!

Our Church and School Office will remain open on a limited basis during the week. If you need to drop something off at the office, call the office in advance at 517-882-8665. For church information, email Sue Sundstrom, Church Administrative Assistant, at ssundstrom@oursaviorlansing.org.

Finally, let's watch for God! We know He will use this opportunity to further His kingdom, and for His glory. We have the opportunity to slow down, to connect with family and friends in new ways, and to grow deeper in our faith as we lean on the Lord. We have a changeless Christ in a changing world. Thanks be to God for His amazing grace, steadfast love, and perfect peace.

God's blessings as you Learn, Live and Share Christ!



Pastor Bill Wangelin <><