

MEMBER EMAIL 031620

Email Subject Line:

**Temporarily suspending activities and in-building worship at LNL**

Dear Lake Nokomis Lutheran Community,

As we have continued to monitor and assess the rapidly-changing coronavirus situation, we have made the difficult – but we believe faithful and responsible – decision to **temporarily suspend all onsite worship and activities at Lake Nokomis Lutheran. Wednesday and Sunday worship will be offered online (see information below).**

We are taking this step not out of fear, but rather as a way to be a proactive and responsible community leader attempting to do our part to “flatten the curve” of transmission and limit the spread of the virus.

We believe **taking this action now not only allows us to most fully love our neighbor** – especially the weakest and most vulnerable members of our community – but also allows us to be supportive partners of our healthcare system by doing what we can to try to prevent it from being overwhelmed.

**WHAT ARE WE DOING?**

- Beginning today, we’re **suspending all regularly scheduled in-building meetings and gatherings**, including Sunday and mid-week Lenten worship services.
- We will continue to monitor the situation, and **will reevaluate our next steps** regularly going forward. Expect frequent communications via email, our website, and social media.
- Planning is in progress to offer **online worship on both Wednesdays and Sundays**. Watch for details in the next several days on how to connect to that worship experience and stay connected as a worshipping church community. We’re also working on providing other education and devotion resources for families and individuals.
- Individual **home visits are temporarily suspended**, except for emergency circumstances. Our Visitation Director and Parish Nurse, Barb Tauferner will remain in touch by phone.
- Church staff will continue to work and serve members, but may not necessarily be in the building. Please call ahead if you need pastoral care or have other needs: (612) 729-2323.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- **Pray for this entire situation** – for those affected by the virus, and for those who will care for them.
- **Be safe.** Continue to follow recommendations to remain healthy by washing your hands and by staying home as much as you're able (physically distancing yourself from others).
- **Check in with each other**, especially with those who will feel increasingly isolated or alone these days or those who may have a difficult time providing for themselves.
- **Continue to support** the mission and ministry of Lake Nokomis Lutheran. Your regular offerings are needed to pay our weekly bills and meet payroll obligations. If you don't already give online through Simply Giving, consider moving to that option today. [Go to the LNL website and click on the Simply Giving link.](#) Envelopes that would typically be given during worship can be mailed or dropped off during the week (call the office first).

God is with us in these times. While we know that the uncertainty, disruptions to daily life, and concern for our health during this time can cause a sense of anxiousness or even panic, we trust that the message God gave to so many in the Bible is now given to us: "Do not be afraid." You are not alone, and never will be – this is the promise of our faith.

We are praying for each one of you, for all who are sick, for all caregivers, and for the whole world. Please join us in these prayers, and take the necessary precautions to keep yourself and your family safe as outlined by the Minnesota Department of Health and the CDC. We look forward to being together in person again soon, and we trust that the Spirit holds us together even when we are apart.

Grace and Peace,  
LNL staff and Church Council  
Council Members:  
Cody Anderson  
William Awe  
John Becker  
Karen Ojeda  
Mark Patzloff  
Andy Peterson  
Kathryn Selin  
Lynn Walsh

