

Dear St. Stephen's Family,

Grace and peace from God, our Father, and our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ during these unprecedented times.

As most of you know, yesterday's announcement from our Governor closed schools through Tuesday, March 31st. Today our SC Synod Bishop, Herman Yoos, encouraged that we "cancel all in person worship services and church activities through at least March 31st." And moments ago President Trump recommended that the "Public should avoid gatherings larger than 10 people" and also requested a cancellation of "discretionary travel" to slow the outbreak.

In light of these recommendations, St. Stephen's is shutting down all in person gatherings including all church services and activities through March 31st.

In terms of our worship life, we will move to a virtual platform on Wednesdays and Sundays. We have a team of folks working to facilitate bringing our community together in these special ways. Thank you to them for their hard work! We will be in touch again soon with more details helping you to participate in those opportunities.

The Church Council and Staff will continue to monitor developments and make decisions about our life together. Keep an eye on our website (www.sslc.org), our Facebook page, and your e-mail for updates.

There is no doubt that all these changes are scary and unsettling. In the midst of such turmoil we are called to remember that God is with us. No virus can change that. We are reminded that even in the chaos that we have a purpose and a mission. Jesus proclaimed that the two greatest commandments are to love God and love our neighbor. One way to love our neighbor is to do what we can to prevent the spread of this virus. Another way we can love our neighbors is to check on them, pray for them, and help them as we all are trying to navigate uncharted waters. Together we will pray and persist, trusting that God is with us always and remains the ultimate source of our hope as we live to be "People of Christ Making a Difference".

In Christ,
Pastor Pat and Pastor Jason