

March 20, 2020

Dear beloved community of Redeemer Lutheran,

we are a congregation that cares about and loves one another and we will continue to do so during these uncertain times. Responding to God's love for us and for the world, due to concerns over COVID-19 and with directives from the federal and provincial levels of government and our National Office and Synod, we are temporarily suspending all worship services and all programming at Redeemer until further notice.

We have all been asked to social distance from one another: that is, to keep two arms length or two metres between ourselves and others; to limit the physical spaces where we come into contact with one another; to self isolate for 14 days if we have travelled outside Canada or are feeling unwell. Through all these measures, your church council and I are being diligent that social distancing does not turn into social isolation.

Here are some of the creative ways we will continue to care for one another and stay connected:

- We will go online with live worship on Sunday morning at 10 am via Zoom. To join the Sunday service go to this link <https://zoom.us/j/3441769624>. There will be a practice session (with the above link) so you can join a test meeting on Friday, March 20th from 7 pm to 8 pm and on Saturday, March 21st from 9 am to 10 am, then join us live on Sunday! If you are having problems connecting contact the church office at redeemerlutheran@rogers.com.
- If you cannot join the online worship on Sunday, we will send you devotional materials by email for Sunday morning so that you may spend time in reflection and prayer in your home.
- You can watch worship on t.v. at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Kitchener on Sundays at 10 am via CTV (CKCO); Bell Fibe:201/1201; Bell Satellite:584/1505; Rogers Cable: 12/109/518; Shaw Direct: 67/369
- We have a team of people who will help if you need groceries and other important items for daily living if you are self isolating or feeling unwell. Simply call the church office at 519-438-8462 and leave a message. Messages are checked daily. If assistance is required for your taxes (unable to make appointments to file, etc.) call Wendy Hofner at 519-686-4809 to make arrangements.
- We have members who will stay in touch with you via phone - a check-in to see how you are. If you are feeling emotionally stressed, alone, or in need of prayer

or conversation, do not hesitate to contact me (Pastor Katherine) at 519-852-4164.

- Remember to call, text, and email each other, to share important information, and to offer support and prayer for each other, for all front-line workers, and all who have been affected by COVID-19.

Through this, Redeemer continues to operate as a congregation and a community that cares. I ask that you please remember your regular offerings. If you have not done so, consider signing up for PAR (Pre Authorized Remittance Forms). The form is attached to this email. You can send in that form with a voided cheque or your offering through the mail to our office, or drop it or your offering in the church's mailbox (located outside by the women's and men's washroom entrance). As well, office hours are being kept by me on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

As we care for and stay connected to one another, we trust God who loves us, who is our rock and our refuge in times of trouble, and we pray: "O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted, grant courage and hope. Where anxiety is infectious and widening, grant peace and reassurance. Where impossibilities close every door and window, grant imagination and resistance. Where distrust twists our thinking, grant healing and illumination. Where spirits are daunted and weakened, grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams. All these things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen." (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 76)

In mutual love and support,

Pastor Katherine Gohm and your Redeemer Council.