

Good morning members and friends of St. Mark's, St. James and Zion – April 2, 2020

In mid-March, 2020 the three church councils decided to put all worship services and church meetings on hold until April 12th with the hope that we would be able to gather for an Easter Sunday worship service. Unfortunately, with the continued spread of COVID-19, that will not be possible. The councils have agreed that it would be best to let all of you know, now, that we cannot meet at our individual churches until we have been cleared to do so by our respective federal, provincial and municipal governments. When that will be is uncertain so we will notify you by email or phone when we can again gather together.

In the meantime, Pastor Dave and Sue are continuing to do much of the work they were before the coronavirus pandemic, although visits are being done via email or phone instead of in-person. Weekly sermons as well as mid-week messages are being written and sent out. Sue and Dave are putting together weekly worship services and emailing them to all people on our email lists so that on Sunday mornings, from our own homes, we can worship together from a distance. They plan to put together an Easter Sunday worship service that will include Holy Communion that we can all participate in at our own homes. Church councils will be looking at ways they can continue to make decisions that require a motion and vote. Sue will continue to act as recording secretary for these motions and ensure they are properly recorded and filed.

The church treasurers are continuing to pay the bills and making sure there is enough money in the bank account to do so. Church councils are considering ways to ensure that members and friends who make regular donations to the church are able to continue doing so. Some people are already doing so through Preauthorized Remittances (PAR) which is great, but for those who are not, please feel free to contact any of your council members if you wish to give your donation while the church building is closed. The building is closed but the church is not.

The physical, mental and spiritual health of our members and friends is of utmost importance, so please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Dave if you are in need of pastoral care or simply someone to talk with. Feel free to contact Sue and our council members as well if you find yourself in a situation where you feel they might be able to help. If there is ever a time that our faith community is of importance it is at times like this when the stress of daily living increases and we are anxious about many things. Let's stay safe and take care of one another.

May the love of God, the grace of Christ, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

From Pastor Dave and the chairpersons of church councils on behalf of
The church councils of St. Mark's, St. James, and Zion Lutheran Churches

