

March 18, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

Today we face a unique and serious public health situation presented by the continuing spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). The leadership of St. Paul Church and School want to update you on the actions we will be taking. We also want to discuss how we can all help each other, our congregation, and our community.

First, out of an abundance of caution and concern for all members, students, and staff, St. Paul will be implementing the following actions:

- Starting immediately after the Wednesday, March 18 Board of Directors meeting, we will immediately suspend all on-site church activities until further notice, as recommended by church and government authorities. This includes all services, group activities, and meetings held at the church, such as Bible study groups and committee meetings.
- By order of the state government, St. Paul School is closed starting March 17, and will remain closed until at least the end of the previously scheduled spring break, tentatively re-opening on Monday, April 6. That schedule is subject to change. During this time, the school staff will be providing remote instruction to all students.
- In order to provide the spiritual nourishment we all need, the St. Paul staff has made several recommendations regarding how to alternatively deliver God's Word to the congregation. We will be creating and communicating a variety of worship and devotional messages by e-mail, our website, and through social media. These will include abbreviated worship service videos, online devotions, leadership updates, and personal calls to pray or conduct devotions. Any other suggestions to make this effort more meaningful will be prayerfully considered.
- The church office will remain open 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Monday through Friday with at least one staff member on duty. At these times, a portion of the sanctuary will be available for personal prayer and reflection. For everyone's health, please adhere to any posted directions.
- Congregational meetings will be re-scheduled as allowed by changing circumstances and the new dates will be communicated in advance.

Throughout this challenging time, our congregational workers in both church and school will continue their service to St. Paul. Your continued financial stewardship is vital for compensating these faithful workers. You may provide your offerings by mailing them to St. Paul at 85 S. Constitution Drive, Aurora, IL, 60506, by bringing them to the church office, or by signing up on our website with QGiv, a system which automatically allows regular giving using a credit card or bank account debit. Set-up instructions for QGiv can be found at the bottom of this letter.

As always, a church consists of God and His people. And at this time, there are many actions you can take to help. Please consider how you can help St. Paul and Aurora at this time:

- PRAYER! Pray for our families and friends, our church, our community, our nation. Our God can do anything if we ask for His help.
- Do everything you can to stay healthy and keep those around you healthy. Recommendations from the CDC, the Northern Illinois District, and St. Paul can be accessed through our website.
- Be there for each other—on the phone, on social media or even by mail. Remind and encourage each other to continue to put our trust in the Lord.
- E-mail the Elders team know if you know of any person or family who needs our help, whether it is spiritual, physical or financial. The Elders team e-mail is elders@stpaulaurora.org
- If you are able to help others with their needs, please VOLUNTEER. If you are willing, we can match you up with church, school and community members who need that help.
- Contribute to our Benevolence Fund, which is used for discretionary assistance to those in need. Contributions may be made using the Benevolences envelopes in your giving envelope packet, or through QGiv as a General Fund contribution if you specify “Benevolence Fund” in Additional Information.

This is truly a difficult time for our families, our church, our community, our nation, and our world. We pray you can take comfort in the words of Isaiah 41:10—**“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”**

May God bless and watch over you all,

Board of Directors, St. Paul Lutheran Church

Qgiv Instructions:

Go to www.stpaulaurora.org

Scroll down to  and click.

Enter your amount. Then choose where to direct it. The default is the General Fund.

Click on how often you will make this contribution.

Enter your personal information.

Under <Additional Information> you can enter your envelope number and/or comments.

Lastly, choose your payment method and fill in your info. Then click .

You are finished. ***Thank you for your commitment to St Paul.***