



www.tlchillsdale.org  
Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.  
Summer Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

69 Griswold Street, Hillsdale, Michigan 49242 | (517) 437-2647

March 18, 2020

Dear Members and Friends of Trinity Lutheran Church,

*When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith towards the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you. ~Philemon 4-7*

May God's grace and peace be with you.

This is an unprecedented age in our lifetime as we face challenges associated with the COVID-19 outbreak. Some have chosen to strictly follow CDC guidelines to stay home and avoid crowds and large gatherings. Restaurants have closed, events have been canceled, and plans have had to change. Our church council gathered last night and prayerfully considered the best course of action for our congregation. Suggestions from Bishop Satterlee and other sources were consulted.

In hopes of keeping one another healthy, our council determined that the best action at this time is to suspend worship and close our buildings through April 1<sup>st</sup>. King's Kupboard will remain open as a drive-through pantry only. Otherwise, all worship services, studies, groups and events are canceled effective immediately.

As April 1<sup>st</sup> approaches, the council will again assess the situation and make further recommendations.

Below, I have included some notes specific to various areas of our ministry together, and hopefully this information will help answer some of your questions, and guide you through this time apart.

**Online resources-** I am working to provide various resources for prayer, devotion, and worship. Many of these materials are available on the church's Facebook group. Some materials, such as Sunday worship resources, will be available on the church website. If you do not have access to Facebook and would like me to email you with these devotional resources, please let me know.

**Worship-** The bulletin will be posted on Facebook and the church website each week for you to use in prayer. I will post a manuscript and video of my sermon each week as well. It is my goal to have all of this uploaded by Saturday at midnight. If you do not have access to the internet, the office will gladly mail you a copy of the bulletin and my sermon.

**Prayer-** Even though we cannot gather together as a community, we can join together in prayer. I invite you to join me at noon each day to lift up our prayers to God. I will sometimes post

**KING'S KUPBOARD**  
Food Pantry

Mon/Weds/Fri - 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.  
May-Sept - Weds 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

prayers on Facebook. You are also always invited to pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

**Events/Studies-** With the closure of our buildings, various events have been canceled including March book club, Tuesday Bible Study, Midweek Lenten services, AA meetings, and others. As needed, each group will find ways to address this extended break. Tuesday Bible Study will address adjusting our calendar when we reconvene.

**Office-** The church office will remain open during this time, although we ask that you keep in-person visits to a minimum. Secretary hours may fluctuate throughout the week, but please know that if we miss your call, we will be in touch as soon as we are able. I intend to be in the office regularly. At this time, my hours will be Tuesdays – Fridays 9am-4pm. If our office schedule changes, it will be communicated in the weekly bulletin insert available online or through a phone call.

**Offerings-** Depending how long our time apart continues, please remember to keep the church's finances in mind. You are always able to mail your offering to the church. You may also choose to bring in additional offering when we resume our worship services. This is also an excellent time to contact the church office to enroll in Simply Giving. I recognize that you also may be facing financial strain during this outbreak. If you need to adjust your Simply Giving, please contact the church office.

**King's Kupboard-** King's Kupboard will be assembling pre-made bags of food to hand out at our normal distribution times. Many of our volunteers are in the 60+ at-risk category, and will have the option to take a step back from volunteering for a while. With this in mind, our leaders at King's Kupboard may be reaching out to seek additional help for packing or distributing bags. We are still in the process of determining our needs. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the church office and we will let you when we have a better idea of our needs.

**Pastoral Care-** I want to be in touch with all of you regularly. However, that is not always feasible. Please know that you are welcome to reach out to me by phone, text message, email or Facebook messenger at any time Tuesday-Friday for a chance to check-in and connect with the church. I will continue to take Mondays as a day off. In the event of a pastoral emergency, you are welcome to call me at any time. My cell phone number is (517) 607-9429 and my email is pastorjessicahahn@gmail.com. At this time, I am minimizing in-person visitation to reduce my chances of becoming ill. This will allow me to be accessible in the event of acute or emergency situations.

Even though we may not be able to gather as a community right now, I trust that God is present with all of us, and that the Holy Spirit still moves in this community and serves as our guide and strength.

This closure will not last forever, and we will join together as a community again. I look forward to seeing you soon.

I pray for your health and peace in this time.

Blessings,



Rev. Jessica Hahn, Pastor