



TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH

712 Apple Avenue • Holland, Michigan 49423

TEL (616) 396-6526

Website: www.trinityrc.org

March 13, 2020

Dear People of Trinity,

Here at Trinity Church, one of our core values is relationship. We are called to care for our congregation and to love and serve our neighbors. This care must include the physical needs and well-being of our community.

To that end, we are asking you to take precautions to keep yourself and others safe, especially in light of recent developments with the coronavirus (COVID-19). In consideration of Governor Whitmer declaring a state of emergency in Michigan and corresponding recommendations that include limiting large gatherings to prevent spread of the disease, we have been prayerfully considering our next steps.

One of the specific precautions set forth to reduce the spread of coronavirus in those state recommendations is to cancel or postpone large gatherings of over 100, reduce in-person gatherings, and consider telework or tele-learning options. In addition, for high-risk groups (such as ours with our large number of older folks and those with medical issues), it has been recommended to limit gatherings to 10 people or less.

Late Thursday night, the governor announced that there are now 12 confirmed cases of the virus in Michigan with 4 being in West Michigan. In response, the governor cancelled all schools for students K-12 until April 6 in order to curb the spread of COVID-19. Just as the governor has gone to such lengths to protect our children in this challenging season, we also want to be diligent and proactive in caring for those whom we minister to as Trinity Church.

Following a time of prayerful discernment, we have decided to cancel our worship gatherings at the church and to utilize our radio broadcast on WHTC 1450 AM and 99.7 FM as well as our internet streaming capabilities for worship over the next three Sundays: March 15th, 22nd, and 29th. We will also be pausing all of the programs of Trinity as well as those organizations that use our building through Saturday, April 4th, to coincide with the governor's strategy to address this health crisis.

Stay tuned for more information on how to access our worship service content by checking the website, watching your email, and checking social media. In preparation for worship on March 22nd, we will make our service content available via an email that we will share on Sunday morning for you to engage in worship as the "church scattered."

This is not an inconvenience – it is an invitation and a calling for us as God's church to worship as believers have for millennia - in homes, surrounded by family, loved ones, and smaller communities. Therefore, we would encourage smaller gatherings in homes to enjoy the presence of God and worship together by following along with Trinity's content.

While we intend to take the necessary sanitation and medical precautions, our first response as a faith community needs to be that of a deep trust in the peace and grace of God. In the midst of widespread anxiety and fear, we as the church are called to speak into that which we don't understand or control with a sense of calm that God is our Creator, Sustainer, and Protector. We must be ready to advocate for and consider the marginalized, sick, and vulnerable that will be impacted by this circumstance both locally and globally.

It is a reality that when church doors close, giving as a discipline tends to falter. At Trinity, we believe that giving is a crucial part of living as a disciple. We want to remind folks of several ways that we can enjoy this act of worship despite not being physically gathered on a Sunday.

Since the Front Office will still be open during normal office hours, people are welcome to drop off or mail an envelope with their offering. Electronic banking is also an option to practice even while scattered.

In Psalm 46, we are reminded that it is God who is our refuge and strength, and our ever-present help in trouble. To that we say, "Amen!"

Please join us in praying for those who are impacted by COVID-19, as well as those who are working tirelessly to curb the spread of this virus.

In Christ,
Your Consistory

Trinity Reformed Church
www.trinityrc.org