

## **Coronavirus Response for Worship Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church**

Consultation with three medical professionals in our congregation (Bill Ayoub, Hans Fox and Ron Montelaro), have produced the following suggestions/actions in an attempt to slow down the spread of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) at Trinity Church during worship.

- **Greeters:** Avoid hand shaking. If you are scheduled to be a Greeter and are concerned, you may postpone your duty until a later date. Pastor Doug Gebhard will greet worshippers every Sunday.
- **Bulletins:** Will be available in the narthex (entryway) for self pick-up.
- **Offering:** Plates will NOT be passed for the Offering. Offering plates will be on a table in the narthex. You can deposit your offering before or after worship.
- **Online Offering:** You can also make an offering using Simply giving (electronic, online giving). See Trinity's website at [www.trinitywexford.org](http://www.trinitywexford.org) for more details.
- **Communion:** You may choose to refrain from receiving Communion. Salvation is already yours and these means of grace assure us of that. Frequency of communing is not an obligation. If you do wish to receive Communion:
  - *Cups:* Children and others will NOT hold the trays from which the cups are retrieved or deposited. Trays with empty cups will sit on the front pew, and the trays to return cups will be on a stand where the cups are usually returned.
  - *Bread/Host:* You may choose to receive the host or just drink of the cup. The ELCA *Statement on Communion Practices* reminds us "that the crucified and risen Christ is fully present for them in, with, and under this one element."
  - *Receiving the bread/host:* Please hold out your hand in your usual fashion. If you choose to NOT receive, you will receive a blessing from those serving.
  - *Children:* A blessing will be offered to children not taking Communion without touching the forehead or head as is usually done.
- **Seating:** It is recommended that worshippers sit in every other pew thus allowing some distance between you and your neighbor. The backs of pews and handles on doors will be cleaned after each service.
- **The Peace:** The Peace will be declared from the chancel. The people will respond and ALL will be seated. We will not greet one another until further notice.
- **Worship Attendance:** You are encouraged to stay home if you are ill in any fashion or are concerned about contracting or spreading this virus. The sermon will be on-line Sunday afternoon (see link in this email). Copies of the bulletin, liturgy, and scripture readings will be delivered electronically if you wish to worship at home.