

3/18/20

Dear Friends and Members of Trinity Church,

At it's Monday evening meeting, the church Council decided to indefinitely suspend all gatherings and activities on the church campus effective immediately. This includes worshipping in the sanctuary Sunday mornings. This decision has numerous implications (see below), many of which we are certain we haven't even thought of.

At minimum, we will restrict in-person activities for two weeks. This timeframe is based on federal, state, and county guidelines/restrictions. However, health professionals (including three on Council) believe this "social-distancing" could continue.

Church Office

Linda Slatt, Communications Director, will continue to staff the office Monday–Thursday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. If you come to the church, you will find the doors locked. A sign will be posted on the Parish Hall door with the church phone number which you can call to be let in.

Pastoral Care

Pastor Doug Gebhard will be working remotely but will be available via phone, text or email. Emergency or critical-care appointments can be arranged by contacting the church office. Due to restrictions being imposed by healthcare/nursing home facilities, visitation decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Worship

For now, worship will be streamed Sundays at 10:00am on Facebook. A Facebook account is not required. Instructions will be provided in a separate email and will also be posted on the church website (<https://www.trinitywexford.org>). Amy Kapp (Music Director) and Doug Gebhard (Interim Pastor) will conduct the service. A PDF of the liturgy will be available to download. This modified service will include time for Communion at home. If you or someone you know does not have live stream capabilities, we encourage you to tune into any televised worship as a Sunday morning worship alternative.

Sunday School / First Communion / Confirmation Class

Weekly Sunday School classes for all ages are cancelled. A separate communication to parents of the students currently enrolled in First Communion and Confirmation is forthcoming.

Wednesday Evening Lenten Program

Starting this evening, Pastor Doug Gebhard will offer the weekly Wednesday Lenten series using an online tool. Sessions will begin at 7:00pm. Instructions for joining the session will be provided in a separate email and on the church website.

Financial Matters

Due to prudent budgeting and your faithful financial support over the past many years, Trinity is entering this uncertain period with reasonable financial reserves. For the foreseeable future, we

3/18/20

intend to continue paying staff wages and other commitments. We request committees to defer or reduce spending where feasible, but please spend what is needed (subject to budget guidelines) to keep from needlessly harming ministries. If you would like to continue donating to Trinity until normality returns, you may do so in any of the following ways:

- *Electronic Giving*: Electronic giving is available and can be found on our church website under the eGiving section. If you need assistance setting this up, let the church office know.
- *US Mail*: Your offering can be mailed to the church office at 2500 Brandt School Road, Wexford, PA 15090.
- *Hand Delivery*: You can deliver your offering to the church office. Just call when you arrive and you'll be met at the door.

Committees/ Groups

Ministry teams should assess where and how ministries can either continue remotely or be suspended based upon the nature of the ministry. Alternative means to communicate among yourselves should be utilized in lieu of meeting at the church. Video conferencing is a modern day web conferencing option that provides a free solution to remote meetings. Contact the church office if you need assistance in getting one of these services set up.

Holy Week

It's projected that we will not yet be through this crisis by Easter, so plans are being made to hold Holy Week services remotely (like Sunday worship). Stay tuned for additional details.

Our church leadership will be consulting regularly throughout this critical time and will continue to communicate with you via:

•**Church Website**—Two important new webpages have been added to our church website that include a *COVID-19 Update* and *Remote Worship* links. Timely updates will be posted as well as weekly worship opportunities.

•**Email Blast**—This will be the major communication tool of our church. Note: *If you or someone you know either does not use the internet or computer, please contact the church office ASAP so that additions can be made to our contact lists for staying informed.*

•**Facebook**—Both the “Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church” and “Trinity Lutheran Wexford” Facebook pages will be also be used as a means for posting updates and encouraging church community interactions.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. Your continued financial support of our ministry and mission is appreciated. Please continue praying for the staff, our church family, our community, and all those affected by this terrible virus.

Doug Gebhard
Interim Pastor

Ron Montelaro
Council President