

## Coronavirus update March 18th, 2020

To the saints at Trinity Lutheran Church in Jenera,

God encouraged the New Testament believers, **“Let’s us not give up meeting together..., but let us encourage one another and all the more as you see the Day (of the Lord) approaching (Hebrews 10:25).”**

When we meet together as a church that is my prayer to God that you receive encouragement. Whether in our worship, our fellowship events, or our meetings, I pray that you would be encouraged with God’s Word and the body of believers that he has given us. This past weekend, when we had services, a person told me that they were glad that we could hear God’s Word, sing some favorite hymns, and be encouraged by her brothers and sisters in Christ. At a time with chaos and uncertainty, we need that encouragement from God’s Word. Not only do we receive encouragement from God’s Word, but also from our brothers and sisters in Christ recounting God’s many blessings from previous dreary days.

That’s what makes it difficult to say that we will not be meeting together for at least the next two weeks. We will not meet for worship services, Bible study, Sunday school, choir practice, fellowship events, or even to clean the church as we had planned. The church council out of concern for the health and well-being of our members and guests have cancelled all church activities through April 4th. We took seriously what our national, state, and local officials had advised about the coronavirus. So for the safety of all people who would come to any activity, we canceled them. The church council will continue to stay informed about the ongoing situation with the coronavirus. If needed, we will extend this cancellation.

Just because we are not meeting together as brothers and sisters in worship or fellowship, it does not mean that we have stopped being a church. We, Pastor Schmitzer and Pastor Nowak, are still willing to help you spiritually at this time. We still plan to record a brief Sunday service that we will post on our website at [www.tlcjenera.org](http://www.tlcjenera.org). If this should continue, we will post updates there. If you know of people who do not have internet connection, let us know and we can mail or deliver DVDs of that service to them.

Although we may not meet throughout the week, we still are a church. Pray for God’s help for all people in this trying time. Never stop bringing your requests to God for all our brothers and sisters in Christ everywhere. Stay in touch with people in the congregation. With the extra time that you may have on hand, call people to keep encouraging them as we walk through this together. If you need pastoral assistance at this time, call us, the pastors. We would love to hear from you. If you can’t get a hold of the pastors, call the leader of your undershepherd group. If you don’t know who that is, please call either our office, 419-326-4685, or call Pastor Nowak at 419-302-5271.

We also realize that uncertainty spiritually and financially run rampant right now. So don't be afraid to call for spiritual care, but also if you are in need of anything. God told us how the early Christian church helped each other (Acts 4:34-35). If you are need of anything or if you are able to help, call or email us, so that we facilitate help as needed.

As we have talked to some people, they have asked the question, "If I wanted to give my offering to the church, how would I do that now that we are not meeting?" We have three ways to do that. You can mail it, you can deliver it to the school office, or you can make use of our online donation. You can mail it to either school or church address, located at the bottom of this letter. You can also deliver it to the school office from Monday through Friday. Either our church secretary or a teacher will be at school during the week. While school may not actually meet at the school, our teachers still have office hours, so that they can answer any questions from parents or students. Finally, you can also donate using the "Online Giving" link on the home page of the website.

As we weather the storm caused by the coronavirus, we know that God will bring us through this. Keep your eyes open to the hidden blessings that come through this. We have more time to spend with our families, more time to catch up on projects around home, more time to encourage our own brothers and sisters, mother and father, or sons and daughters. Look out for those blessings and thank God for them.

While we may not physically meet together at Jesus' feet, we still get to receive encouragement as we see our Savior march to the cross to face down sin, sickness, and death. He conquered them all for us, so that we don't need to fear them. Yes, sickness may harm us and impair us in this life, but it cannot take away the glorious body that God has promised us, when we rise again. God be with you until we meet again.

In Christ,  
Pastor Nowak and Pastor Schmitzer

#### Important numbers and information

Pastor Schmitzer's number: 419-365-1350    Email: [bschmitzer@juno.com](mailto:bschmitzer@juno.com)

Pastor Nowak's number: 419-302-5271    Email: [pastormattn@gmail.com](mailto:pastormattn@gmail.com)

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