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Milton Lutheran Parish
Deacon Gary Schaeffer, Interim Pastor

Addressing Public Health Concerns

Dear friends of the Milton Lutheran Parish. I wanted to update all of you on some proactive steps we are taking as a congregation to address the public health concerns related to the flu, coronavirus, and other related illnesses. The changes below are based on recommendations made by the Center for Disease Control and the ELCA.

1. Shaking Hands/Greeting- We are asking that as you greet each other that you refrain from physical contact.
2. Passing of the Peace- During the passing of the peace the worship leader will offer peace to the congregation verbally. The congregation may respond by also offering a verbal “peace be with you” without physical contact.
3. Distribution of Communion and Offering- We are asking that all worship assistants wash their hands during the service utilizing the sacristy. Ushers should wash their hands before the offering and communion assistants should wash their hands during the offering in preparation for the distribution of communion. All Communion Assistants should receive communion after the rest of the congregation.
4. Continuous Communion- Rather than communing around the railing we will receive communion continuously in a line.
5. Self- Monitoring- If you are not feeling well or exhibiting any symptoms please stay home. You may also want to limit your exposure to people if someone in your home is exhibiting any symptoms. Additionally, wash your hands as much as possible. You are encouraged to wash your hands when you arrive at church and before you leave.

We recognize that these proactive steps will help to limit the spread of illness. At the same time, we recognize that as a community of faith we work hard at living into our call as Jesus’ disciples, by loving God and loving neighbor. We know that we all want to be in relationship with one another and show each other love as best as we can. Our hope is that these proactive steps will enable us to be in a loving community with each other while also showing love by keeping healthy boundaries.

We also recognize that we are living in very uncertain times. Even as I write this letter we are learning new information about the rapid spreading of this illness. Our Church Councils will be meeting this upcoming week to discuss long-term planning to ensure peoples’ safety.

Yours in Christ,

Deacon Gary