

March 17, 2020

Greetings Bethlehem members,

We want to update you regarding some changes in policy and procedures in response to the COVID-19 virus protocol.

First, about worship: As of this point in time (3/16/2020) the Center for Disease Control (CDC) is recommending cancelling group meetings of more than 50 people with some exceptions. **So, at this point forward until further notice, we will not be gathering for worship on Sunday morning or on Wednesday evening at 6:20 pm. If that changes, we will post updates on our website and Facebook page.** You can always contact the church office at 218-829-3330 or office@belcnet.net if you have questions. Our worship service (or just the sermon) will be available to view on our website at www.belcnet.net. We will also be providing **live streaming of the 10:30 am Sunday worship** on our Bethlehem Lutheran Facebook page. **Please feel free to mail you offering to the church office at Bethlehem Lutheran, 418 8th Avenue NE Brainerd, MN 56401 or give online at www.belcnet.net.**

Second, some general things to remember:

- If you are **sick or even slightly coughing and/or sneezing or running a temperature, please stay home.**
- Wash your hands regularly with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds.
- Maintain social distancing when possible (6 feet from another person/family).

Third, about weekly activities at Bethlehem: For now, we have cancelled all regularly scheduled activities. For now, we will be collecting food items for Operation Sandwich (peanut butter, bread, jelly, granola bars, etc.) near the front doors of the building. All board meetings will be conducted via email/online or other appropriate means at the discretion of the board.

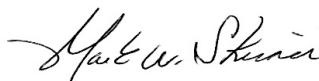
Fourth, about pastoral care: Please know that your pastors will be praying for you and available to visit on the phone at 218-829-3330 or via email during the normal workday and will be limiting in-person visits based on need. Funerals will be handled in accordance with necessary precautions for social distancing at this time, which will also mean refraining from lunches.

Lastly, if you are interested in having someone regularly checking in with you to see how things are going, or you are interested in helping with this ministry, please contact the church office. We will do our best to keep you informed of changes to procedures and protocol as things change.

Blessings in Christ,



Kevin Goedker



Rev. Dr. Mark W. Skinner

President

Senior Pastor