**+ Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church +**

**2451 Saucon Valley Road     Center Valley, PA  18034**

**Office:  610/865-4144**

January 6, 2021

Dear Congregation Members,

   At a specially called meeting last night, January 5th, Friedens' Congregational Council made the decision to continue with online worship services only through Sunday, January 24th, and to keep our facility closed to all groups until then as well.  At that time, we will reevaluate the situation and make some determinations about future worship services including Ash Wednesday and the upcoming Lenten season.

   This is a difficult call to make, but one that is essential.  Because of the mounting cases of COVID — not only within our own congregation, but in our community and county as well — we felt that this was the best direction we could take in order to help our church members heal, recuperate, and get stronger, and to help flatten the curve on this insidious virus.  As many are sadly finding out, the effects of it are very real and can be life threatening.  We are using the best information we have, along with our best judgment, to try to keep everyone as safe as possible.  In that same vein, we ask for your continued prayers for all individuals and families who are affected by COVID.  If you know of someone personally, you may also want to send them a card/text or give them a call to let them know that you are thinking of them.  Knowing that you are surrounding them with your love and prayers can go a long way in their recuperation.

   At this same meeting, new members of Council were welcomed for 2021.  We are grateful to Diane Ernst and Bill Heins for giving of their time and talents to serve the congregation in this capacity, particularly under these most challenging circumstances.

   Please be reminded that sealed Communion elements will continue to be made available to anyone who would like to utilize them while watching the worship service online at home.  They are in a large plastic container outside the red church doors on Saucon Valley Road.  Please take adequate supplies for yourself and other family members to use.

   Again, you are cordially invited to tune in to the worship services which are streamed online by going to our website (www.friedenscentervalley.com) or by going to YouTube and searching for Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church in Center Valley and clicking on the link for the service you wish to watch.  They are all archived, so you can go back and watch any Sunday service you’d like.  Thank you for your kind patience, continuing support, and  encouragement as we delve into this new year.

Yours in Christ ~ Pastor Lisa K. Borrell