



# Messiah Lutheran Church

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

***“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,” Hebrews 12:28***

March 17, 2020

Dear Messiah Family,

***In light of the COVID 19 outbreak, we have a few things to tell you about and to ask of you.***

**First and foremost**, when the earth is shaking and we don't know what might happen, or when we feel alone and afraid, remember our God is unshakable. God's love for us will not waver. God's promises of strength and hope remain. If you feel afraid or anxious, reach out to a friend. And know I am always here for you! Even if we are isolated, we do not go through this alone!

**Next**, know that effective immediately, Messiah has canceled all worship and ministry events as well as all member and community group events held in our building for at least 8 weeks. This includes Sunday morning and mid-week worship (Lent and Holy Week), Sunday School and Confirmation. The office remains open for now with its regular hours: Mon. – Thur. 8:00 am – 3:00 pm, Fri. 8:00 am – Noon. You may call or drop by to talk, or for anything else you need.

**Then**, during this time of separation, we will do our best to stay in touch. Like our Facebook pages (@messiahralston, and Moms of Messiah). Staff will be preparing and sending out resources appropriate for study and worship. To receive these resources, please go to our website: [www.messiahfamily.com](http://www.messiahfamily.com) and subscribe to the weekly newsletter (just scroll down the home page to find the subscribe information.) **If you do not have internet access**, and wish to receive resources, call the church office (402-331-5510) immediately. We will mail them to you.

**And most importantly**, know that we are here for you! Need groceries? Meds? Ride to doctor? We will help you! Just call! (402-331-5510)

**And now, what we are asking of you:**

**Stay safe.** Follow all the recommendations from our health officials and government leaders and agencies.

**Take care of one another.** Check on your neighbor, especially if they live alone. Think of the people that normally sit around you in worship, give them a call. If you know of any situation that your Messiah staff needs to be aware of or can maybe help out with, give us a call (402-331-5510). Just because we can't gather doesn't mean we can't still be a family that cares for one another!

**Stay in touch with us, your Messiah staff.** Call us if you need anything. Sign up for our e-newsletter. Any changes in plans will be published there. Check out our website for the latest and for resources. Like us on Facebook.

**Support our mutual ministry.** While we aren't gathering for a while, our expenses continue. There will be some savings – utilities, paper and copying, fellowship expenses, and so on – but most of our expenses continue. In addition, while we are very grateful to Jon Stuehm and SOS Heating and Cooling for the very generous donation of new heating and cooling equipment for our sanctuary and lobby areas, we did incur expenses totaling over \$8,000 for electrical and hot water heater replacement. Our funds need replenishing.

Ways you can continue to keep our ministry strong:

- **Sign up for online giving** ([www.messiahfamily.com](http://www.messiahfamily.com) "Give tab") You can set up recurring donations and one time gifts.
- **Contact your financial institution** and sign up for online bill pay.
- **Mail in your gifts:** Messiah Lutheran Church, 5015 S 80<sup>th</sup> St., Ralston, NE 68127

*Your donations will make it possible for us to continue to care for one another and serve our neighbor! You are making an amazing difference for so many!*

**Finally, know that I thank God for you every day,** for your faith and love, for your compassion and care. You are what makes Messiah a family that will remain together and strong no matter the circumstances around us!

God bless you with every good gift!

Your servant in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Greg". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Your servant in Christ,".

Pastor Greg