



March 30, 2020

RE: Concordia's ongoing response to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Pandemic

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

To recap the last two weeks, Executive Order 117 banned mass gatherings of more than 100 persons and Executive Order 120 reduced this number to ban more than 50 persons. On Friday, March 27, 2020, Governor Cooper issued Executive Order 121 now being referred to as the "Stay at Home" order which lowers the ban on mass gatherings to more than 10 persons. The order is in effect for 30 days beginning at 5pm on Monday, March 30, 2020.

As a result of the Governor's latest Executive Order, our Board of Elders convened via email and voted "to continue the suspension of our worship services and other ministry activities for the duration of the Governor's latest Executive Order and ask Pastor Geml and our ministry staff, within the boundaries of the Executive Order, to continue to develop and produce worship and Bible study opportunities online to our congregation". They will meet again on April 27, 2020 to evaluate the situation at that time and plan forward. In case of an emergency after hours, please contact Leslie Brown at 828-234-0372 and she will direct you to the individual who will best assist you.

We are blessed to have Pastor Geml and an outstanding Ministry team. They will continue to make available worship opportunities through our web site and the local radio station.

Our Day School students continue to study at home in compliance with Governor Cooper's order until at least May 15, 2020 and our Day School administration and faculty continue to develop methods to provide our Day School students a meaningful education experience remotely.

Our Church office will remain open with reduced hours; however, in accordance with Governor Cooper's order, social distancing must be practiced in an effort to keep everyone safe.

By direction of Church Council, the church office will be open Tuesdays and Wednesdays- 10:00am--3:00pm and Thursdays 10:00am-12:00pm. Our church office staff is blessed with the ability to work remotely if additional time is needed. Our Ministry staff will continue to plan and prepare for future online worship opportunities and Bible study.

We want to remind everyone that while we will not have on-site worship while we deal with this pandemic, the ministries of Concordia are still happening. Our Church Staff is still doing the work of our Lord and our Day School is still teaching students on-line. We ask that you continue to support these ministries and continue to tithe with your offerings by mail, on-line, or through our website.

These are unusual and extraordinary times that no one living today has experienced. We continue to pray for all people according to their needs and pray for the support of the work of our Lord at Concordia. Remember to check on each other and continue to assist your neighbors with their needs.

Concordia's leadership continues to monitor the pandemic and will determine appropriate action in an effort to comply with Federal, State and local health officials to minimize contact with other individuals in order to slow the spread of the virus and keep ourselves and others healthy and safe.

In Christ,

Kyle Hayman
Congregation President

David Isenhower
Board of Elders Chair