

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The global outbreak of COVID-19 has brought forward many suggestions of caution when it comes to gathering in crowds and keeping up hygiene. In honor of this call to caution, Augustana Lutheran Church will be canceling worship and Sunday School this Sunday, canceling our forthcoming Wednesday Lenten Soup Supper and Worship, and suspending our Adult Bible Study.

**So what does this mean for us going forward?**

- I will post a video recording of my sermon for this Sunday, March 15, to give people a chance to dwell in God's spoken word.
- The next two Sundays, March 22&29, I will learn and figure out how to live stream our worship, so that people may still worship from the comfort of their homes.
  - More information about what this looks like and your role in it will be coming at a later date.
- Confirmation and Sunday School will be suspended until parents and our Sunday School teachers feel comfortable gathering again.
- Homebound visits will be suspended, but phone calls will be made to keep in touch. (Most assisted living facilities and nursing homes have put a temporary ban on visitors anyway.)
- I will still make physical emergency calls when needed. Just contact the church phone (521-8127) or my cell phone.
- The April newsletter will still be mailed out at the end of the month.
- The Vice-Chair, Church Council, staff, and I will keep in touch over the next week to talk about what April may look like.

Please know that these actions are being taken out of caution not hysteria. It is my hope that we can still be a worshipping community of Christ in these next few weeks. It is also my hope that by taking these actions now, we play our part in helping to contain the spread of COVID-19. Feel free to email ([pastor@andoverlutheran.org](mailto:pastor@andoverlutheran.org)), Facebook message, text, or call me with any questions or concerns.

In humble service,

The Rev. Reed Lee Pedersen

