



Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

1524 West Main Street
Durant, Oklahoma 74701
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March 17, 2020

Dear Our Saviour's Family,

As we anticipate outbreaks of COVID-19 in our own community, our church leadership is taking steps to ensure everyone's safety. The State of Oklahoma has issued a State of Emergency concerning public health, which strongly discourages the gathering of people that includes anyone over the age of 65 and those with underlying health issues. This represents a significant number of our church family. Bishop Gronberg of our NT-NL Synod also strongly urges congregations to suspend in-person worship services. We need to do our part to slow the spread of COVID-19.

By a vote of the church council on March 16 and effective tomorrow, March 18, all gatherings at the church facility will be suspended through Sunday, April 5. This includes all worship services, Sunday Bible classes, Lenten meals and services and any other activities that have been planned during this timeframe. After April 5 the Council will reevaluate the situation considering the guidelines being provided at that time by federal, state and local officials and health care personnel.

There will NOT be on-site Sunday morning classes or worship services on Sunday, March 22, Sunday, March 29 nor Sunday April 5. Additionally, there will be NO Lenten Soup Suppers/Services on Wednesdays, March 18 & 25 nor on April 1. Please stay home.

Sunday Worship service bulletins will be emailed to all members of the congregation, and you are encouraged to visit the Facebook page of Trinity Lutheran Church, Sherman, on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. and Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. for a worship live feed. (At this writing Trinity Lutheran's services and activities are also suspended.)

As a community, these precautions feel counterintuitive. In times of crisis we normally gather together. We are a close-knit family of believers and we have now been challenged to find ways to remain in our mutually supportive community even though physically apart. As disciples of Christ, our role in caring for one another does not depend on close proximity. You are encouraged to reach out often to each other, to neighbors and friends and to those high-risk individuals who have self-isolated. A simple phone call or email to check in will soften the separation, distance and isolation that we are all experiencing. We ask that you be mindful of keeping your offering current so that staff salaries and ministry can continue. Offerings can be mailed to the church.

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Please pray for people around the world who are currently suffering from Coronavirus / COVID-19 and their caregivers, families and community. Pray for those who grieve the loss of their loved ones to this virus. Pray that our medical professionals find the proper treatment for this virus and keep it under control. Pray that our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world would be a beacon of light and love to those who are suffering.

Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: comfort and relieve your servants, giving your power of healing so we may be strengthened in our weakness and made confident in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

If you have concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Council. Please help us spread the word to those who do not have e-mail.

In Christ's Service,
Our Saviour's Congregation Council