

Sisters and brothers,

Every hour the situation concerning COVID-19 becomes more dangerous for the demographic that comprises most of our congregations. The major sports, entertainment, and travel industries are taking drastic measures to follow safe protocols. Many churches of all denominations are making decisions to close. The First Congregational Church in East Longmeadow is closing. St. Mark's is livestreaming. Other local congregations are making similar provisions. In an effort to keep our congregation safe, we have decided to invite you to livestream the worship service and discussion with Pastor Wilco. I will be doing worship at St. Paul, and Pastor Wilco will be there. You might decide to attend in person, but I STRONGLY URGE you to watch from home. We will send an email Sunday morning around 9:15am with a link to the YouTube channel. All you will have to do is click on the link, and you will be redirected to the livestream. While this very contagious virus is still rampant, probably till at least April 1, we will offer this livestream option.

If you have questions for the assistant to the bishop, Pastor Wilco, feel free to email them to me in advance of Sunday morning (revannestrickert@gmail.com)

Please remember that while the activities of St. Paul will not be going on, the expenses associated with St. Paul will continue. We still need to pay salaries, the utility bills, insurance among other things.

This would also be a good time to go to our website and donate electronically. You can make a one-time donation or a recurring donation. Recurring donations allow you to maintain your giving when you are not able to physically be present at church. If you need assistance, please email Sue (susanwinn44@yahoo.com)

You can also mail your checks to St. Paul Lutheran Church, 181 Elm Street, East Longmeadow, MA 01028.

We will be canceling Bible study, and any other gatherings until April 1. It will be up to the other groups that use our building to make their own decisions about their communities. It is our sincere hope that, if everyone is careful for the next couple of weeks, we can return to coming together on Palm Sunday and following. Watch for information through email, Facebook, and in the newsletter regarding our schedule.