

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Saturday, March 28, 2020 – 2:00 pm
Executive Council Gathering / Conference Call

Pastor, Scott Griffith, & Steve Kauffman gathered after at St. Paul's this Saturday after Food Pantry. Cindy Griffith and Dave Cobaugh were conference called-in. We felt it was necessary to meet again to discuss the most recent letter from the bishop regarding Corona virus shutdown requirements, and review updates from the current week.

- FOOD PANTRY – distribution to those in-need directly to car
- BISHOP'S LETTER – dated March 26, 2020
- WORSHIP UPDATES – emails & audio
- NEXT COUNCIL MEETING - via video conference

FOOD PANTRY

Unofficial count: 280 Boxes were distributed this morning with the help of approximately 35 volunteers. The Drive-thru went very smoothly. It wasn't to start until 11, but the first car came at 9:30, so we started early. St. John's parking lot is one of the largest, so that worked out for the best. The cars made a full loop around the lot, and hardly any cars ever reached the service road. We were happy to see a lot of first-timers there. The Fire Company was also there with two emergency vehicles (squad truck and fire truck with lights on!) They were in helpful in directing traffic and keeping the flow.

BISHOP'S LETTER

Originally our return date was April 6th. In the most recent letter of March 26, the Bishop states; *"we must suspend our in-person worship services and in-person meetings indefinitely"*. The letter also lists other denominations:

Additionally, this is the policy that most church bodies in our area are following. The Altoona-Johnstown Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church has suspended services indefinitely. The Orthodox Churches have closed public worship at the order of the Ecumenical Patriarch. The Episcopal Church has suspended in-person worship until the shutdown is over. The Presbyterian and Methodist churches have suspended services. We are all doing the best we can to care for our people.

We all agreed, we don't like the word "indefinite". Pastor will write a letter to inform the congregation and find a better word.

WORSHIP UPDATES

We will work on getting this pre-recorded Video Link out on multi sites. We can put on Facebook and U-tube both, and encourage others to share, to get the work out. Pastor likes

that viewers can start & stop, and watch at your leisure. Several of his colleagues are using Zoom (on-line live meetings), and have to set up a specific time. Live presentation could be prone to the frustrations of technical difficulties. So, he likes this recording best!

Pastor and Cindy will work together on Tuesday, March 31st to record the next worship service. Sarah has suggested we included photos of Pastor too.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

- Steve mentioned that it has been good seeing envelopes and offerings continue to come in. We suggested in the next mailing, that we need to keep thanking our congregation for sending in envelopes and offerings.
- Scott asked that we hold on posting these minutes, until council has a chance to review.
- A Zoom license will be obtained before the next council meeting (Monday, April 6), so we can continue meeting.
- None of us could believe it had only been a week since our last Executive Committee Meeting.