

Tuesday, March 24, 2020

My dear friends in Christ,

God's grace and peace be upon you!

We got word from the Synod office yesterday that the Governor has extended the Pennsylvania school closures. The ban on gatherings also remains in place. Therefore, St. Paul's will be closed until at least April 6th. My hope is that by then, the virus will be contained, incidents fall dramatically, and an effective vaccine be found and distributed. I also pray that the ban on gatherings will be lifted after that date, and we will be able to worship together again during Holy Week. We shall see. I will do what I can to keep you informed.

Martin Luther called the laity and clergy the "Priesthood of All Believers." Luther encouraged families to pray together and worship God together in the home. Therefore, Home Worship is very much in line with Lutheran practice.

Toward that end, we will be sending out Home Worship Materials again this week. Sarah will be sending it to you via email. We are doing our best to build the email database at church, to enable us to communicate in a timelier manner. The Home Worship Materials will likely be sent out Thursday evening this week to those of you with an email address. If you haven't provided us with a current email address, please text me at 341.1702, or send an email to Sarah at the church address: stpaulsmc@atlanticbbn.net.

An added feature this week is that we also recorded the worship service in an audio file. We will send you a link to a YouTube address for you to access that audio file. When you click on the link, you can follow along with the service and read the materials along with the speakers. My thanks to the production team of Scott Griffith, Cindy Griffith, and Kate Griffith. The voices you will hear on the audio file are Pastor Kevin, Cindy Griffith, and Barbara McNamara.

I've also been asked to write a daily prayer on Facebook. If you are on Facebook, and haven't received my daily messages, please send a "Friend Request" to me.

Now, if you are among the faithful who don't have an email address or a Facebook account, you are dearly loved. Please text me if you want worship materials, and a member of church council or I will do our best to hand-deliver you a copy of the worship materials.

So much to do. Let us pray:

"We pray for a cure/vaccine for this virus. We pray for those who are sick. Lord, place your healing touch upon them. Lord, we pray for those out of work. Lord, bless the front-line staff and healing professionals at hospitals, nursing homes, and assisted living facilities. We pray for children and their parents, as the schools are closed. Lord, cut short this time of suffering, so we may all gather again in worship at Your Lutheran Church in Mundy's Corner. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen. "

Yours in Christ!

Pastor Kevin