



Calvary

LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CONGREGATION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
302 Olena Avenue SE Willmar, MN 56201 | 320.235.2508

March 17, 2020

Hello Calvary Lutheran friends and family,

We are currently living in a time of rapid change as health officials, school administrators, government leaders, business owners, and faith communities are responding to COVID-19. We, the staff and leaders of Calvary Lutheran Church, want to update you on some of the recent changes we are enacting.

Along with the other ELCA churches in Willmar, we are suspending all worship services and activities until further notice. We will be providing worship opportunities for participation on-line, by radio and local access TV. Starting Wednesday, March 18th our building will also be locked and closed to the public until further notice. Our staff will continue to work in some combination within the building and remotely. They will be answering the phones, checking voicemail and emails. Please do not hesitate to reach out. We are installing a secure drop box/mailbox on the front of our building that can be used for dropping off offering envelopes or other written correspondence.

Following the lead of our SW MN Synod staff, we want to begin working on ways for us all to make deeper connections with God, each other and our community. Our staff will be creating online opportunities in each of these three areas of “Connecting.”

We could use your help in several important ways.

- 1) With the hospitals and care centers closed to all outside visitors, including clergy, we ask that you contact us when you or someone you know is admitted or has a change in health status. This is important information and we want to know about it in a timely fashion. Our contact information is listed below.
- 2) Facebook is proving to be the best, quickest and most flexible means of communication. Please make sure you “Like” and “Follow” Calvary Lutheran Church (fb@CalvaryWillmar) for the most updated information. Please assist others you may know who are not yet Facebook users to set up an account and to begin using it to follow Calvary Lutheran Church. We will also continue to update our website with worship services and other announcements at www.calvarywillmar.org
- 3) We will begin making contact with all members by phone. These connections are meant to serve the following purposes; a) to verify & update contact information b) to determine best means of mass communication for you and your family, c) to inquire of any special needs that you may have at this time, d) to see if there are opportunities in which you may want to provide help for others.
- 4) We anticipate that the times ahead will be financially trying times for many, including churches as they miss out on services and regular offerings. Please

consider how you might continue to financially support our important ministry. Offerings can be mailed to the church office. Our office staff can assist you with switching to online giving if you wish.

In this time of caution and prevention you hear the term “Social Distancing” often. We prefer “Physical Distancing” as we simultaneously work toward “Social Closeness” with our faith family and community. Please feel free to contact us in any of the following ways: Calvary Lutheran Church (320) 235-2508 (we will be answering phone calls and checking voice mail). Pastor cell phones; Pastor Tim Malek (320) 905-8677 and Pastor Naomi Mahler (320) 894-2863.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. Come, Lord Jesus. Come, Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Pastors, staff and Executive Committee of the Calvary Lutheran Church, Willmar, MN