

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

1998 Lansing Ave. NE - Salem, OR 97301-8736

(503)364-6041 www.holycrosslutheran-salem.org

Pastor: Reverend Patricia Hughes

March 18, 2020

Dear Holy Cross Family-

Effective immediately Holy Cross will suspend worship services for the next three weeks (March 22, 29 and April 5) with the possibility of extending that suspension for eight weeks. Our building will be closed to most activities, or on an appointment basis.

The Holy Cross Council believes this to be a faithful and responsible decision based on the current recommendations and guidance. Many of Holy Cross' groups are smaller, but we have chosen to adhere to the spirit of these restrictions in the hopes that we can protect the vulnerable not only in the Holy Cross congregation, but also those in our wider community.

No bible studies, classes, or outside groups will meet at Holy Cross until further notice. We ask those who have keys to the building to not access it during this time.

Pastor Patricia and dedicated folks in Worship and Music will provide worship and devotional options through our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Holy-Cross-Lutheran-Salem-117537534944946> and congregational website <http://www.holycrosslutheran-salem.org/>.

Nursing homes and other care facilities have already closed visitor access at this time, but Pastor Patricia will continue to provide pastoral care through phone calls, cards and other creative methods. As always, Pastor Patricia is available through her cell phone (5035109976) if you have a pastoral concern. You can call the church office, as well 5033646041, though we are making plans to minimize our presence in the office as well. We plan to forward phones in that case.

If our congregation experiences a death during our closure, we will follow best practices as developed by similar faith communities. If appropriate,

we will offer a funeral restricted to family members only. At a later date we will consider offering memorial services for the public to attend.

Upon the recommendation of our finance committee, we would like to address the financial stability of our congregation during this time. We will continue to provide ministry and trust God to provide what is needed for us to be God's presence in this time and place. We hope that those who give through offering envelopes will mail those offerings to the church office. If you have not yet considered moving to digital giving this may be an opportunity to do that. On our website: http://www.holycrosslutheran-salem.org/?page_id=164 you can click the "Donate Today" button to make a special one-time gift or to set-up regular recurring gifts. We know that many will feel financial pressures in the coming weeks and months, if you are able to make a special gift on behalf of those who cannot, please consider doing so. If you are under severe financial pressure, please know you are in our prayers.

Your leaders will continue to monitor the recommendations of the CDC, state and county. We ask that you continue your prayers for our leaders and all those who are affected by this health crisis. Above all, we invite you to be God's presence to those who are experiencing this as a fearful time, be kind and generous.

Remember the promise of your baptism and God's love for you.
Yours in Christ,

The Holy Cross Lutheran Church Council and Pastor Patricia Hughes