

## *Friends,*

Grace and peace to you. We hope that you and your families are well and staying safe and healthy. Following Governor Walz's extension of the Stay Home MN order, we wanted to update you with the latest from church leadership. Members of the Christ the King COVID-19 Response Team (listed below) remain in direct contact and continue to—virtually—meet and discuss ongoing plans related to our COVID-19 response.

On Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, Gov. Walz announced that Minnesota's stay at home order was extended to Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. The order also paves the way for more small businesses to reopen in the coming days and provides additional guidance on how to do so safely. Indeed, this is a breath of fresh air and I imagine many are wondering what this means for our faith community. In keeping with best practices as outlined by the CDC and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and after much deliberation and prayerful discernment, **we have decided to extend the suspension of all in-person activity at Christ the King through June 15<sup>th</sup>. This will continue to include Sunday worship, weekday programming, community groups, and the closure of the front office. A further update will be provided by June 1<sup>st</sup>.**

We are keenly aware of the ever-changing nature of this virus and the ways we are responding to it. One of the many resources we consulted found what is, for me, the perfect way to describe what led us to this decision. Emphasis mine, it said, "If we don't continue our efforts to contain the virus...we will lose what we've gained from the measures we've already taken. And if we push the envelope too far by...resuming gatherings prematurely, *we may unfairly force on our more vulnerable members the choice between keeping themselves and others safe and participating in congregational life like everyone else.*"

Most immediately, please participate in this beloved community by praying for one another, for those who are sick, and for the doctors, nurses, public health experts, and elected officials who are working to slow the spread of this virus and provide care for the sick and vulnerable.

And join your Christ the King family in online worship this Sunday at 9:30 AM by visiting [lifeatctk.org/worship](https://lifeatctk.org/worship) or by visiting our [Facebook page](#) and our [YouTube channel](#). We will hear God's Word, sing together, speak directly with our children, and pray for the healing of the whole world. We will begin a short Wednesday evening prayer service at 6:30pm over Zoom video conference starting on May 13th. We look forward to yet another time during the week to pray together and dwell in God's promises, both spoken and sung.

During this time of social distancing, if you know of anyone in our faith community who does not regularly have access to a screen and reliable internet, please reach out to them directly, give them a call, and share this important information with them.

Your Ctk staff and pastors continue to be available by email and by phone. Please, visit [lifeatctk.org](https://lifeatctk.org) to find contact for each of our staff members. A pastor is on-call at all times and can be reached by calling 651-633-4674.

Importantly, while we have suspended in-person activity, we have not and are not closed for business. God is still at work in all our lives as our staff and volunteers create new and meaningful ways to stay connected. We are worshipping together, praying together, and living our lives of faith together in ways that we haven't before. Author Jeff Christopherson reminds us that right now, the mission of this body requires the whole body. We are interdependent and there are no spare parts, no spectators, and no unimportant days. We are in this together and we will make it through resolute in our mission and ready for what lies ahead.

## *Together in Christ,*

Christ the King COVID-19 Response Team

Isaac Warner, *President*

Brett Kosec, *President-elect*

Dale Erickson, *Treasurer*

Jill Loegering, *Secretary*

Pr. John Schwehn, *Associate Pastor*

Ana Becerra, *CtK/Cristo Rey*

Nate Cray, *Director of Worship*

KC Gubrud, *Director of Operations*

Judy Benke, *Faith Community Nurse*

Elaine Foell, *Faith Community Nurse*

Julie Philbrook, *Faith Community Nurse*