



*¹But now thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;*

*I have called you by name, you are mine.
²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.*

³For I am the LORD your God, (Isaiah 43:1-3a)

Monday, March 16, 2020

Greetings in Christ's name. These are unique times. News about COVID-19 is ever evolving. Part of our concern at Trinity Lutheran Church is to make good decisions for your sake and the sake of the community. With that in mind we are suspending all activities at the church – including worship services for Wednesday and Sunday, Church School, Sunday School, confirmation and youth group through Sunday, March 22.

The decision to suspend all gatherings does not mean an end to ministry here at Trinity.

- The Sunday 8:30 a.m. worship service on 1270AM Radio will continue to be broadcast. It will happen with a small number of musicians, the pastors and a person on the sound board. This is an important way we can continue to provide a worship service not only for our members but for the larger community.
- Gracia will be providing Faith Formation Resources for the home through our Facebook page and email. We will have this up by Wednesday.
- Staff will continue to work normal office hours. That means if you need someone to talk with or pray with, please call the office 701-223-3560.
- Our Stephen Ministers will lead an effort to make phone calls to as many members as possible, the priority will be given to trying to reach out to those who are most susceptible to this virus. However, if you would like to have someone checking in with you for conversation and prayer call the church office – we will put you on the list.
- We will be using our webpage: trinitybismarck.com and our 'Trinity Lutheran Church – Bismarck' page on Facebook to share scheduling updates as well as prayer

The office will continue to remain open, Monday through Thursday, from 8:00 until 5:00. I normally take Mondays off, so while the office itself is not open on Fridays, I most certainly am available. Call the church phone or, if it is an emergency, call my cell phone 701-629-9992. If you are concerned about life, overwhelmed by fear or for other reasons, know that one of our staff would be glad to talk with you, pray with you and see if there are other ways we can care for you.

This is our chance to practice what it means to be servants to one another. I encourage you to reach out to your friends and family, see how they are doing, pray with and for them. Check on your neighbors, make sure they are alright. If you are not part of the vulnerable population, consider making yourself available to do grocery runs for people that may need to stay home.

We are the body of Christ. We will survive this by caring for one another.

Blessings,
Pastor Mark Narum

Contact Information:

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Office Phone: 701-223-3560

Pastor Mark Narum – cell – 701-629-9992 (emergency contact)

To Stay informed:

ND Health Department: <https://www.health.nd.gov/diseases-conditions/coronavirus>

Prayer Resources:

Psalm 13 *How long, O LORD?*
Psalm 34 *Blessed are those who take refuge in God*
Psalm 71 *The LORD will revive me*
Psalm 139:1-17 *O LORD, you have searched me and known me*

Merciful God, in the stillness of our souls we listen for your voice to know again that you are God. Quiet our restless hearts with the knowledge that you are near us, keeping watch over your own. Rekindle our faith and light the lamp of hope within our hearts. Then take us by the hand into each day that lies ahead, for where you lead we can confidently go with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Loving God, inspire by your Holy Spirit those who are afraid of losing hope, especially name, for whom we now pray. Give *her/him* a fresh vision of your love, that *she/he* may find again what *she/he* fears *she/he* has lost. Grant *her/him* your powerful deliverance; through the one who makes all things new, Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

Amen.

Compassionate God, support and strengthen all those who reach out in love, concern, and prayer for the sick and distressed. In their acts of compassion, may they know that they are your instruments. In their concerns and fears, may they know your peace. In their faithful serving, may they know your steadfast love. May they not grow weary or faint-hearted, for your mercy's sake.

Amen.

Healthcare and Emergency workers

God of earth and air, water and fire, height and depth, we pray for those who work in danger, who rush in to bring hope and help and comfort when others flee to safety, whose mission is to seek and save, serve and protect, and whose presence embodies the protection of the Good Shepherd. Give them caution and concern for one another, so that in safety they may do what must be done, under your watchful eye. Support them in their courage and dedication that they may continue to save lives, ease pain, and mend the torn fabric of lives and social order; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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