

*Letter to the congregation from French Creek Lutheran Church Council regarding Covid-19 Pandemic Response,
adopted March 15, 2020*

Dear siblings in Christ,

French Creek Lutheran Church will follow the recommendations of local, state, and national health officials regarding holding worship and other church events. This is a rapidly changing situation, and flexibility will be necessary.

Announcements about activities at French Creek Lutheran Church will be made on the church Facebook page, via the e-mail distribution list, and on the voicemail message at the church (608-525-4802). We will endeavor to make decisions in a timely manner and communicate such decisions through a variety of means. Please make sure your e-mail is up to date in our distribution list by going to <http://eepurl.com/nzgf1>

- If worship is cancelled, the congregation is encouraged to worship with Our Savior's Lutheran on-line, at 9am on Sundays: <http://www.oursaviorslutheranchurch.net/live-stream/>
- Resources for home worship will be provided via the e-mail distribution list.

All staff, members, visitors, and guests will:

- Refrain from attending worship or church activities if they are ill, or if they have been in direct contact with those who are ill, or have travelled in areas in which the COVID-19 virus is in the community.
- Wash their hands frequently.
- Utilize hand sanitizer or hand washing before and after ministries that involve physical contact, such as ushering or counting offering.

Staff and council will:

- Ensure that surfaces such as doorknobs and light switches are sanitized before each worship or gathering.
- Make decisions on a case-by-case basis for small group gatherings connected to the church.
- Prepare for a ministry of support for the vulnerable in our community.

We will implement the following on a temporary basis:

- Offering plates will be placed in the front and back at worship, and will not be passed from hand to hand. *You are encouraged to use electronic giving via the church website or the GivePlus app.*
- Sharing of the peace will be by verbal welcome, bows of respect, waves, and peace signs. Please refrain from handshakes, high fives, fist bumps, elbow bumps or other physical contact.
- The receiving line after worship is temporarily suspended. Pastor Anna will be in the front of the church available for any who wish to speak with her.
- Communion servers will wash their hands before worship and use hand sanitizer before communion. Communion will be served on the floor below the stairs.
- Altar guild members who prepare the communion elements will continue to wash their hands and use recommended precautions.

Pastoral Care

- Pastor Anna was in three international airports on March 11, and in close physical proximity with hundreds of people from around the nation and world. In an abundance of caution, Pastor will refrain from routine in-home visits with those who are potentially vulnerable until the end of March. Care will be offered by phone.
- Our local nursing homes have asked for no visitors and worship services have been temporarily suspended.
- For other pastoral care needs, a decision will be made about in-person visits on a case-by-case basis with Pastor and parishioner or family. Care is also available via phone and video chat.
- Gundersen Hospital has placed restrictions on the number of visitors allowed. Pastor will visit if you wish – please call her (608-525-2131) so she can coordinate the visit with family members. Care may also be offered by phone or from hospital chaplains.

Funerals

- If regular worship of the congregation would be cancelled, funerals will be limited to family, with a larger public funeral to be scheduled later. Funerals may also be postponed to a later date.

All these measures are subject to change.

If you have questions, please contact Pastor Anna Sorenson

608-525-2131

pastor@frenchcreeklutheran.org