

**UPDATE REGARDING COVID-19**  
**ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**March 17, 2020**

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To the Community of St. George's

Members of the Vestry gathered last evening to address our response as a parish to the ever-increasing dangers of Covid-19. There is much material related to our parish and individual responses. Social Distancing is, at this time, the most important response to curb the outbreak of the virus. The Vestry focused on the right thing for our, health, for pastoral care, and for being responsible to our larger community.

So, to begin, the physical plant at St. George's will be shut down to all church worship, meetings, outside meetings and any other activity deemed part of our church effective immediately.

There will be no services at Church. We will begin to stream our worship online, starting Sunday March 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will be using a tool called Zoom. We will provide more information in our weekly email and through our website. We hope you will find that it is very simple to click the link that we will provide and go directly to the live stream.

We will have one service on Sunday at 9:30 AM. We will continue with one service until we receive notice that we can resume our weekly schedule in the church. We are not aware of the length of this practice, but we ask you to be patient as we want our community to be safe and at the same time growing spiritually. The Vestry assumes that we will not return to services at church until sometime after Easter.

Scheduled group meetings for the church are suspended until further notice. This includes all church related groups: Scripture Study, Lenten Series, Circle lunches, Grief Group as well as groups that have access to our building for their meetings. I will be contacting them today.

The staff will continue to be available by phone, email and text. Do not hesitate to contact us as you need. WE will also be in touch with those members who are homebound and in nursing care. This will be done by phone as most face-to-face visits are not to be held. This arrangement is to continue our Pastoral Care to each of us from each other.

The response to COVID-19 continues to change rapidly. I will continue to review these actions with the Vestry. Please continue to look for weekly email for updates. There will also be updates on our website <https://stgeorgesonline.org/>.

Finally, please continue to pray for the world, our country, Minnesota, and all our families as we make this new journey together. As we move through this process, we will be traveling on new roads that might not be smooth, that have curves and, I'm sure, will have some very sharp ones. Our faith is our

prize possession and now is the time to let it shine, most of all to ourselves as we each struggle with new behavioral patterns.

I pray for each of you, do not hesitate to call me if you need anything, even if you just need to talk and pray over the phone. As we move forward, we will continue to keep you posted as to the ever-changing process as it unfolds!

Peace & Best Wishes!

Fr. Tom

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