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Pastoral Message – March 16, 2020
Update on Suspension of Worship and Event at Grace
How we will stay connected...

Members and Friends of Grace Lutheran Church:

Peace be with you.

“Social Distancing” does not need to mean “Social Isolation”! We as a church together will find new ways to stay connected and support each other as the *Living Body of Christ*.

The Church Council of Grace meet by Zoom (on-line video meeting) yesterday and considered important actions we will take to reduce the spread of Covid-19, while staying connected and supporting each other. Their decisions included the following:

- **E-mail / telephone Chain...** The council has created an e-mail / telephone chain to share and receive information from all members of Grace. We began use of this communication chain last week and will continue its use moving forward. IF YOU DID NOT GET AN EMAIL OR TELEPHONE CALL LAST WEEK, please email pastor@gracelutheranscarsdale.org and I will add you to the communication chain.
- **Suspending through March 31 ALL in-person activities ...** We will follow the current guidance of the Metropolitan New York Synod (MNYS) and suspend worship and other church activities through March 31st. The first possible in-person worship will be April 5 – Palm Sunday. However, we will continue to monitor and keep you informed. Read information and advice from the MNYS Bishop at <https://www.mnys.org/about/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- **Wednesday at Noon Connect for Prayer with Zoom ...** will begin THIS Wednesday, March 18 from 12 to 12:30pm. You are invited to connect on-line through Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/534784728?pwd=TUsxbWd0V2l1K0lMc3RndjdqdW9Ddz09>. Zoom is an on-line meeting space, where we can see and talk to each other. We will take time to share updates, concerns & thanksgivings, and then prayer together. If you are not able to join us on-line but have a particular prayer concern, please email pastor@gracelutheranscarsdale.org or call my cell phone at 917-923-9520.

- **Sunday with Grace** ... the first Facebook live-stream “worship” was held yesterday from 10 am to 10:30 am. You can now view Sunday’s feed on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/events/2502401763408427/permalink/2503596593288944/> Clicked on the “Discussion Tab” to view the video. This past Sunday about 16 people connected to *Sunday with Grace*. I hope next week a few more will connect as we “worship” together. The key to seeing the live-stream is to be on the “Discussion Tab”. The live-stream is a public event so you do not have to be my Facebook friend to watch, but if you want to post during live-stream request to be my friend.
- **Need Assistance Getting Supplies...** we want to make those in our community who are particularly vulnerable to exposure (senior citizens and those with underlying health issues) can get groceries and other supplies while keeping to “social distancing” and appropriate isolation. Several younger healthy members have offered to do shopping as needed. Please let the council member who reaches out know your needs or call me at 917-923-9520.
- **News about Creative Playtime...** at the current time the school is suspended for two weeks through March 27, the same as the Eastchester Unified School District. The council and school board will continue to monitor this schedule and keep all staff and families informed.
- **Let us know your ideas and needs...** if you have another idea of how we can connect as a community in the days ahead, please let me or the council member who calls you know your ideas. Also, if you have any particular needs, don’t hesitate to call or email. Finally, please let me know if you or any friends or family members become ill. Best way to reach me is to call or text my cell phone 917-923-9520 or email pastor@gracelutheranscarsdale.org.

I continue to find this prayer a powerful way to calm my fears and center me on God’s Grace that surrounds us in all times, include these challenging times.

O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted, grant courage and hope. Where anxiety is infectious and widening, grant peace and reassurance. Where impossibilities close every door and window, grant imagination and resistance. Where distrust twists our thinking, grant healing and illumination. Where spirits are daunted and weakened, grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams. All these things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 76)

Peace,



Pastor Ann Tiemeyer

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