



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church and School (LCMS)

9141 County Road 101

Corcoran, MN 55340

763-420-2426 or FAX 763-420-7198

Matthew V. Moss, Pastor

Matthew P. Johnson, Pastor

Gretchen Dolan, Administrator

Suzanne Haag, Admissions & Communication Director

Dear St. John's community,

March 18, 2020

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." – Hebrews 13:9

The Ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ cannot be stopped. He lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever - Amen! His Ministry among us will take a different shape for the time being, but it will not stop and cannot stop. The Educational Ministry of our school will not stop (see the next page for a letter from our school administrative team). And the Word & Sacrament Ministry of the Church will not stop, either!

Publicly gathering for Divine Services and Lenten Vespers is suspended until further notice, but the Word & Sacraments will be provided! Your pastors and church staff are here for you!

The Ministry of the Word – The Tech Board is attempting to set up a Live Stream on our website to air a short **Service of the Word** between 9:30 – 10:30 A.M. on Sunday mornings. Keep an eye on www.stjlutheran.org for when that is up and running. A bulletin for use at home will be uploaded in advance. Additionally, we are restarting the Pastors' Blog on our website and using Facebook Live/Video for short devotions, prayers, and Bible studies. School and Wednesday-Night Catechism classes are going online as well and those families have been notified.

The Sacrament of the Altar and Pastoral Visitation – beginning **Saturday, March 21 at 8 A.M.** we will be offering "**Pastor—Family Visitations**", think of it like our homebound or hospital visits, but you come to us at the Church instead of us driving to you. These visitations can include prayer, absolution, a devotion, and Holy Communion (we also have a few baptisms scheduled)! If you want **weekly Communion**, you can still have it!

You will need to call the church office at 763-420-2426 to schedule a time for your family (it can be extended family and close friends if we keep it under 10 people). Each visitation will be about 30 minutes. It might be in the Sanctuary or the Auxiliary Room. We have hours available Saturday through Wednesday in a mix of mornings, afternoons, and evenings. In total there are over 120 time slots available! ***Don't be shy! Don't hesitate!***

When times are tough you need Jesus' Means of Grace more than ever! This way is different, but it is still the same Jesus, here for you in His unstoppable Ministry of Word & Sacrament!

"Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!" – Psalm 34:8

Your shepherds hope to see you,
Pastor Moss & Pastor Johnson



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Dear St. John's School community,

March 18, 2020

In alignment with MN guidelines, the decision was made to close St. John's Lutheran School starting this past Monday. Teachers spent Sunday and Monday preparing materials to be sent home with students in PreK-8th grade. Additionally, the Board of Education created a policy whereby the school could send Chromebooks and textbooks home for every student in grades K-4 as well as those in grades 5-8 who don't have a device of their own. This enables the school to continue distance learning for all of our families in PreK-8th grade giving them the full value of their tuition investment.

On Tuesday, families came to the school to pick up these materials. Mrs. Dolan and Mrs. Haag were able to interact with each of our families throughout the day. Some teachers were able to be present as well. We ended the day feeling so grateful to the Lord for our families and very thankful for their continued commitment to our school and the education of their children.

While the teachers and students will miss the personal interaction offered each day in a traditional class, we are working hard to re-create this via options offered by Google for Schools. We believe that God has given us a remarkable opportunity to use our creativity and ingenuity to teach our students in a new way! We are confident that we can continue to deliver an excellent education. For PreK, email will be our main platform for daily communication and suggested assignments. For K-8, Google Classroom will serve as our main platform for daily communication, assignments, and assessments. Google Hangouts will allow teachers to meet face-to-face with each other and possibly with students as well.

- **March 23rd - 27th**, there will be educational options available to students. This is *optional* but encouraged because it allows us to test technology and provide children activities to keep them occupied and engaged.
- **On March 30th** (per the governor's orders), *required* distance learning will officially begin.

We have a full communication plan developed. We will keep parents informed in a timely way while working not to overwhelm anyone. As a school, faculty and staff recognize the need to be sensitive to the unique household situations of our families. We've laid out workload guidelines per grade, and teachers will be available every school day to answer questions and guide students. We care very much about each child and parent. We are concerned about the hardships and difficulties that each family faces in light of COVID-19. We pledge to minister to our families with love and compassion through prayer, devotions, conversation, and teaching. God is good and gracious. His love never fails. He will provide all that we need as we work and partner together.

In joyful service,
Mrs. Dolan & Mrs. Haag