



Christian Reformed Church of Pease

Building with Faith • Laboring With Love • Inspiring with Hope

March 17, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Pease CRC,

Last night the Council met to make some decisions and recommendations regarding our response to the spread of COVID-19. The number of cases in Minnesota continues to rise and the Governor, in consultation with MN Department of Health and the CDC, has mandated the closing of schools. It was also recommended that all gatherings of 50 or more be suspended in order to control the spread of the virus and protect those who may be at risk for contracting the disease.

As a church, we desire to honor the governing authorities and love God and neighbor by abiding by their recommendations. The plans, decisions, and requests outlined below come with the full and unanimous support of the council members present at last night's meeting. They are as follows:

1. All corporate worship and ministry gatherings will be suspended until **at least** March 30, 2020. This includes Sunday morning worship, all Sunday School and catechism classes, Sunday Night Live activities, Youth Group activities, Wednesday morning coffees, Coffee Break, Mission Society, Bible studies, and any other gatherings that would be normally held in the church building. We anticipate that the office will continue to be open its regular hours (8:30-4:30 Monday-Friday) but that may change. If you need to come to the church building for any reason, please call ahead to make sure someone will be there to assist you.
2. Sunday morning worship will move to an online format as we will livestream a condensed and simplified worship service on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/peasecrc) and on the radio at WQPM 1300AM or 107.5FM at 9:30AM. This service will contain words of encouragement from Pastor Michael as well as prayers and a message. The council has requested that Pastor Michael continue with his series in Mark, "The Road to the Resurrection". It is our hope that this consistency provide some sense of comfort and normalcy during this abnormal and uncertain period of time.
3. We recognize the social isolation can be difficult for many. The elders and deacons have committed to being even more diligent with contacting members who are most vulnerable to loneliness or may be in need of special assistance during this time. If you need support or assistance of any kind please contact the church office. This could include (but is not limited to) assistance with picking up groceries or prescriptions, getting to/from appointments, help with meal planning or preparation, or just a desire to talk with someone. Please reach out. We have resources to assist you.

4. We also recognize that this current situation can and will have a negative economic impact on some of our members. If you have (or anticipate having) a disruption in your income, a reduction in hours, increased childcare or food costs, or any other financial or physical need, please contact the church office or your Shepherding Group Elder or Deacon. We want to help and have the resources to assist you, so please don't hesitate to reach out. We want to continue to support and love you in this way even (and especially) while we must be physically apart from each other.

5. Not coming together for corporate worship has the unintended consequence of not allowing you to give your weekly offerings so that the church can continue its ministry. If you need to scale back your giving at this time, we understand. If, however, you are able to continue your regular contributions to our ongoing ministry during this time of physical separation we want to give you that opportunity. To that end, we are providing the following giving options for the General Fund:

a. Please consider mailing your offering to the church office at 117 W Main St; Pease, MN 56363

b. You can sign up for e-giving through an automatic withdrawal from your bank's checking account. The date, frequency, and amount can be determined by you. If you would like to do this, please contact the church office for the paperwork. The form is very easy to complete and we will handle all the details for you.

c. We are looking into implementing a mobile app that will allow you to make a contribution directly from your smartphone whenever you desire. Please stay tuned for more details and information about that option.

d. You may also drop off your offering at the church office. However, please do call ahead to make sure someone will be there to receive it.

6. Pray. Please be in prayer for each other, for our families, for teachers and health care workers, and food service workers, leaders and decision-makers, and those in authority at all levels. This is an opportunity for the church to be salt and light to one another and to our community. May the members of Pease CRC be seen as bringers of hope in Jesus showing grace and love to each other during this time.

If you have any questions or need further clarification please feel free to contact the church office at 320-369-4228 or peasecrc@frontiernet.net.

"Rejoice in the Lord always...And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts in minds in Christ Jesus." -- Philippians 4:4,7

May the Lord bless you and keep all,

Pastor Michael