

Peace to you this day, Immanuel family near and far!

With the rising concerns around the spread of COVID-19, I write today to share with you temporary policies that Immanuel is putting into place effective **immediately** and until further notice, to help us steward our shared life. To our knowledge, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 within our community. We intend to do what we can to preserve health, minimize the spread of the virus, and decrease anxiety where possible. The COVID-19 situation has been unfolding very rapidly and is being monitored closely. We, your church council and staff are monitoring the situation daily and will not hesitate to expand or rescind these plans as things unfold. Please *care for yourselves and one another during this time!*

Beginning immediately:

1. All public gatherings for worship are suspended and we are switching to promote online viewing and radio listening on KLOW. We're experimenting with both pre-recording and livestreaming of both Wednesday and Sunday Services. Please check our website at Immanuelfamily.com
2. Wednesday evening meals are being suspended until further notice. Having made that decision however, your church family wants no one to be or to go hungry. We have a program up and running called Square Meals. It's simple, just call (585-3152) or stop by Immanuel and we'll set you up with some great meals to tide you over.
3. All in-person Children's Education and all youth programming is suspended until further notice. Natasha Banta, Children's Ed director will be connecting with families with young children to help you "do" Sunday School at home. My suggestion is to make it part of your routine. Confirmation families will be hearing from Pastor Zech with some assignments to keep the students on track. High School youth may meet online.
4. Our offices will NOT close but will maintain regular working hours. Please, if you are sick do not come to the church, but call and we'll figure out the best way to minister to you.
 - a. Pastoral care and visitation will need to be offered more by telephone for those who are sick.
 - b. Our library will be open but please use caution and wash hands before and after coming.
 - c. Board meetings and staff meeting will continue for now while practicing social distancing.
 - d. We're asking that all Circle groups, Vital agers and any group involving older members take at least 8 weeks off from meeting.
 - e. Our maintenance and custodial staff are following best practices for cleaning and disinfecting during this time.
5. Your Council and Staff will continue to meet regularly to deliberate how we will move forward as a worship-centered community. Further communication is forthcoming.
6. Please practice care for yourself and others. If you are symptomatic, isolate yourself. If you come up against a crisis or find yourself in need of counseling, prayer, or other assistance reach out to your pastors. Please join me in praying for all in need.

Prayers,

Pastor Rod Hopp