

March 21, 2020

Dear Friends,

It's nice to see the sun today!

I just finished recording the online worship for Sunday, March 22. It's eerie looking out at an empty sanctuary - but, in my mind's eye, I see you and that is a good thing!

I'm writing today to let you know that, at the request of Bishop Anne Svennungsen of the Minneapolis Area Synod, all worship and other gatherings and activities at St Peder's will be suspended through April, 2020.

We will continue to post worship online, as well as to communicate through emails, Facebook, and our website ([www.stpeders.org](http://www.stpeders.org)). As our current COVID-19 situation evolves, there may be changes in what our worship looks like and other matters, but I want to assure you that we are making every effort to offer community through a variety of means during this time.

On Tuesday, our members without access to online technology will be sent a hard copy of this letter as well as this week's sermon and prayers. Feel free to share this information with them in the meantime, however. Keeping in touch by phone is a bit of sunshine for all of us!

We will still serve Meals on Wheels the week of March 30, and will continue to provide either groceries or meals for LSS Safe House on Mondays. (If you're scheduled for Safe House in the next weeks, you should have received an email from Jeannie with information from LSS. If you cannot serve, please contact us and we'll seek other volunteers.)

Please know that I carry each of you in my heart and prayers in this time of pandemic. May God's sure love and Christ's peace and the Spirit's consolation surround and uphold you in these days and weeks.

May this prayer be a source of promise and comfort:

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen (ELW, p. 304)

Pastor Julie Ebbesen

