

Pastor's Page

PANDEMIC!

I'm sure by now we have all come to despise this word! Most of us are at home at this time, not able to go out and interact with others.

We have been told to practice social distancing. The restaurants, health clubs, movie theaters and many other places of Socializing are closed!

What are we to do?

On a positive note, we are in a much better place than 100 years ago! We have TV, Internet, cell phones and so on.

In 1918-19 there were none of those things and there was an Influenza pandemic! The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica have this to say: **Influenza pandemic of 1918–19**, also called **Spanish influenza pandemic** or **Spanish flu**, the most severe influenza outbreak of the 20th century and, in terms of total numbers of deaths, among the most devastating pandemics in human history.



influenza pandemic of 1918–19: temporary hospital in Camp Funston, Kansas

The pandemic occurred in 3 waves. The first apparently originated in early March 1918, during World War I. Although it remains uncertain where the virus first emerged, it quickly spread through western Europe, and by July it had spread to Poland. The first wave of influenza was comparatively mild. However, during the summer a more lethal type of disease was recognized, and this form fully emerged in August 1918. Pneumonia often developed quickly, with death usually coming two days after the first indications of the flu.

For example, at Camp Devens, Massachusetts, U.S., six days after the first case of influenza was reported, there were 6,674 cases. The third wave of the pandemic occurred in the following winter, and by the spring the virus had run its course. In the two later waves about half the deaths were

among 20- to 40-year-olds, an unusual mortality age pattern for influenza.

Outbreaks of the flu occurred in nearly every inhabited part of the world, first in ports, then spreading from city to city along the main transportation routes. India is believed to have suffered at least 12.5 million deaths during the pandemic, and the disease reached distant islands in the South Pacific, including New Zealand and Samoa.

In the United States about 550,000 people died. Most deaths worldwide occurred during the brutal second and third waves. Other outbreaks of Spanish influenza occurred in the 1920s but with declining virulence.

Wow! That is simply unbelievable! I knew about this pandemic through my Father. He was born in 1914 and his brother in 1916. Their mother died in 1918 from Influenza.

Now, we are facing a similar crisis, and yet we are so much better off. We have so many more conveniences. But, we are still at risk!

We must remain vigilant! Don't Panic! Keep the faith.

April 12 is Easter Sunday, but I am almost 100% certain we will still not be meeting for Worship.

The good news is that the Easter Season is 7 weeks, 50 days. So when we gather together again, we will celebrate the Resurrection!

May God keep us safe and healthy. Most of all "Wash your hands!"



Easter Food Drive Update (Per Nancy Green) - The Food Basket pickup date has changed. They will now be distributed on Saturday, April 25. If you have questions please contact Nancy Green or Hilda Sawicki.

We are collecting the following items:

- Sweet Potatoes
- Dressing
- Pasta & Sauce
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Cereal
- Toilet Paper, Kleenex, Paper Towels
- Hand Soap & Dish Soap
- Onions, Carrots
- Canned Fruits & Canned Vegetables
- Tuna Fish
- Boxed Food
- Cheese, Eggs
- Bread
- Honey
- Sugarless Gum
- Please hold off on Meat Products until preferences are known**

Tentatively Scheduled Worship Assistants in April

4/5	4/12	4/19	4/26
Lector & Greeter Wendy Phares	Lector & Greeter Carole Salowich	Lector & Greeter Ruth Dziuba	Lector & Greeter Kathy Chiaravalli
Ushers Dan Bergman George Kuljurgis Andy Meyer Bob Frick	Ushers Dennis Kunkel Doug Opthoff Bill Thayer Tom Sweda Bob Burns	Ushers Jarrod Dexel Jeff Parko Stan Samuelsen Lukas Mattern Roy Salowich Tim Moore	Ushers Janet Martin Mary Martin Hilda Sawicki Jeanne Myers
Counters Stan Samuelsen Andy Meyer	Counters George & Chris Kuljurgis, Jeanne Myers or Sandy Thayer	Counters Nancy Green Barb Kunkel	Counters Mary Martin Janet Martin
Altar Guild Donna Opthoff & Marian Rowland			



Rick Page	April 3
Crista Buckler	April 16
Cara Kunkel	April 16
Linda Iverson	April 24
Jeanne Myers	April 25
Chris Elliott	April 28
Doug Opthoff	April 28



Stan & Jean Samuelsen	April 6
Dale & Roxane Mellema	April 9



Governor Whitmer Signs “Stay Home, Stay Safe” Executive Order

Monday, March 23, 2020

Governor directs all non-critical businesses to temporarily close, all Michiganders to stay home or six feet away from others during COVID-19 crisis

LANSING, Mich. -- Today, Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed the “Stay Home, Stay Safe” Executive Order (EO 2020-21), directing all Michigan businesses and operations to temporarily suspend in-person operations that are not necessary to sustain or protect life. The order also directs Michiganders to stay in their homes unless they’re a part of that critical infrastructure workforce, engaged in an outdoor activity, or performing tasks necessary to the health and safety of themselves or their family, like going to the hospital or grocery store.



Governor Gretchen Whitmer



March 23 at 11:10 AM · 🌐

Today, I am issuing a “Stay Home, Stay Safe” Executive Order. It goes into effect tonight at midnight.

The goal here is simple: Stay home. Stay safe. Save lives. If we all stay at home, except for critical work and needs, we can mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Let me be clear: Your grocery stores will still be open. Your pharmacies will remain open. Your banks and credit unions will still be functioning. You can fill your car with gas.

The full list of critical services that will remain open is available at Michigan.gov/coronavirus.

I know this is difficult. I know that this is disruptive. But doing this will save lives. When we look back at this, we must be able to say we did everything we could. We will get through this together.

Letter from Norm Werner

Saturday, March 14, 2020

4:21 PM

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church Congregation –

Pastor Bill and I recently had to make the difficult decision to suspend church services in light of the threat to our congregation from the rapidly spreading Corona Virus. We did this after receiving guidance from Oakland County and West Bloomfield authorities. Our congregation is comprised primarily of people of the age that is most vulnerable to serious infection by the virus; and so we thought it best to suspend church services in order to limit the exposure of our congregants. We will keep you apprised of when the experts and we feel it is safe to resume services.

In the meantime, we must all remember that the church must continue to function, even if in a restricted capacity. Keeping the lights on, paying our bills and paying our staff does not get suspended, just because we have had to take these drastic actions as our part of the national effort to fight this pandemic. I am asking all congregation members to continue to honor their pledged commitments to the operation of Holy Spirit Lutheran Church. Please bring in to the church office or mail in your regular weekly donation envelopes, if you are not among those whose donations are electronically deposited.

I also ask that you pray for the well being of the other members of the congregation. It is probable, indeed likely, that someone from our congregation will be infected by this virus. They will need our support, in prayer and perhaps through actions, to get through this. I know that I can count on everyone for that support for sick congregation members and hope that you are all also able to continue to financially support Holy Spirit with your donations.

I look forward to being able to allow services to resume as soon as possible and I look forward to seeing ALL of you once we get through this crisis. May God bless and protect us all.

Norm Werner, President
Church Council

APRIL						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
<p><i>As of the date of this publication:</i></p> <p>All Church Events and Worship Currently Suspended Due To Covid-19 Coronavirus and State of Michigan Shelter-In-Place Order through at least April 13</p>						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<p><i>As of the date of this publication:</i></p> <p>All Church Events and Worship Currently Suspended Due To Covid-19 Coronavirus and State of Michigan Shelter-In-Place Order through at least April 13</p>						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Online Finance Meeting 7pm	Adult Yoga 9am Prayer Shawl Ministry 10am Driving School (rental) Online Council Meeting 7pm	Pine Lake Cemetery Assoc. 11:45am Driving School (rental) Handbells 7pm	Driving School (rental) Zumba 6:30pm (rental)	Dinner w/ Friends To Be Announced A.A 7:30pm	Zumba 9:30am (rental)
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Choir 8:45am Worship 10am Sunday School N.A. 7:30pm	Driving School (rental) Zumba 6:30pm (rental)	Adult Yoga 9am Prayer Shawl Ministry 10am Driving School (rental)	Driving School (rental) Handbells 7pm	Driving School (rental) Zumba 6:30pm (rental)	A.A 7:30pm	Zumba 9:30am (rental) Euchre Group 6pm
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
Choir 8:45am Worship 10am Sunday School N.A. 7:30pm	Driving School (rental) Zumba 6:30pm (rental)	Adult Yoga 9am Prayer Shawl Ministry 10am Driving School (rental)	Driving School (rental) Handbells 7pm	Driving School (rental) Zumba 6:30pm (rental) Book Club 7pm	A.A 7:30pm	Zumba 9:30am (rental)

Holy Spirit: A Praying Community

God, our peace and our strength, we pray for our nation and the world as we face new uncertainties around coronavirus. Protect the most vulnerable among us, especially all who are currently sick or in isolation. Grant wisdom, patience, and clarity to health care workers, especially as their work caring for others puts them at great risk. Guide us as we consider how best to prepare and respond in our families, congregations, workplaces, and communities. Give us courage to face these days not with fear but with compassion, concern, and acts of service, trusting that you abide with us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We pray for:

Hospitals, nursing homes, other health care facilities

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The World Health Organization

Medical researchers and scientists

Calm to children who are fearful from all they hear and see around them

Patience in times of school closures

Guidance for school administrators as they make decisions

Workers who are anxious about the safety of their workplaces

Uncertainty in how work will be accomplished in the days ahead

Calm and guidance amid financial uncertainties

Government institutions and municipal agencies for Times of Public Health Concern COVID 19 /Coronavirus

Guidance when making decisions for our communities

Houses of worship and their ministries at this time

For all who travel

For all who grieve the loss of loved ones

For other needs particular to your community

Ask God to help us see and attend to people who are unseen, forgotten, underserved or ignored in our congregations, communities and society — elders who are homebound; people who are quiet, incarcerated, homeless or mentally ill; and people living in shelters, care facilities and group homes.



Holy Spirit Lutheran Church
4800 Orchard Lake Road
West Bloomfield, MI 48323
A Caring Community of Faith

Celebrating 50 Years of Ministry

248-682-5441

www.spiritdrivenchurch.com
fb.com/spiritdrivenchurch

Worship 10:00 am
Sunday School 10:45 am
(September – June)



Pastor
Rev. William J. Matlack
Administrative Assistant
Cheryl Brouillette



President
Norm Werner



Music Staff
Bonnie Sweda, Musician
Kelly Perrin, Choir
Heinz Mattern, Handbells



A Monthly Publication of
Holy Spirit Lutheran Church
4800 Orchard Lake Rd.
West Bloomfield, MI 48323

Our Mission: We are: CALLED by Christ
in our Baptism and GATHERED by the
Holy Spirit into his community of faith to
celebrate God's grace in our midst so we
can be SENT to share that grace in our
community and beyond.