

Monday, March 30, 2020

Dear members and friends,

As you may know, on Wednesday, March 25, Governor Walz issued a stay at home order for Minnesotans that limits movement outside of our homes beyond essential needs. That order took effect just before midnight Friday, March 27 and will end at 5:00 pm on Friday, April 10. Then yesterday, Sunday, March 29, President Donald Trump extended national social distancing guidelines until the end of April.

What this means is that we will NOT be able to come together in-person for worship, learning and fellowship for several more weeks, including during Holy Week and on Easter Day! The best we can do is to meet online via live and recorded videos, and written correspondence and updates.

These directives also mean that we are now even more dependent on your financial gifts given outside of worship so we can continue to provide for our staff, support our new social media presence and other ministries, and maintain our building during this unsettling, challenging, and anxious time.

The simplest way to do that is to continue giving your offerings — weekly, monthly, or any time — **by mailing a check** to

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 314
Lanesboro MN 55949-0314

Another way is to make an automatic and regular payment from your checking or savings account. This option is provided through your bank's bill pay service. You set up an automatic periodic payment on a date of your choosing. On that date an electronic funds transfer or a check (depending on your bank's policies) will be sent to Bethlehem for the amount you specify.

Lastly, you can direct your 2019 Thrivent Choice Dollars to Bethlehem. Depending on the product or investment you have with Thrivent Financial, you may have been awarded Choice Dollars that you can designate to a cause or nonprofit you care about including Bethlehem Lutheran Church. To see if you have undesignated Choice Dollars, please call Thrivent at 1-800-847-4836, or go to www.Thrivent.com and login with your username and password, then click on the link for Choice Dollars, or you can contact our local Thrivent representative, Walter Bradley (507-467-3370) for help. ***PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DEADLINE TO DESIGNATE YOUR 2019 CHOICE DOLLARS IS TOMORROW, TUESDAY, MARCH 31.***

Thank you for your religious and financial faithfulness to Bethlehem Lutheran. Remember, we are in this together ... with God!

Dave Ruen, congregation president

Lee Peterson, for the Stewardship Ministry Team

Deacon Cindy Cordes-Eversole, Associate in Ministry

Rev. Kerry Eversole, Pastor