

March 19, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I hope you and your families are safe and well in this time of illness and anxiety. My ongoing prayers are with you. I'm writing to you today to keep you updated on plans for remote worship and Bible study in this unprecedented time of change, disruption, and adjustment.

1. Pam and I will be streaming and recording an abbreviated Service of the Word each Sunday morning at 10:00 which will be posted on our facebook page at St. Michael's Lutheran Church, New Canaan, CT. The recorded service will also be posted on our website at stmichaelslutheran.org.
2. You will be receiving a copy of Sunday's bulletin on Friday each week via email so that you can follow along as you watch and participate remotely in the service.
3. Our Body Building Bible Study will resume on Tuesday, March 24 at 7:30 p.m. via facetime under the leadership of Rip Hoffman. I look forward to this temporary new format. Thanks, Rip!
4. Daily *Godpause* devotions are available at luthersem.edu/godpause for scripture reading, reflection, and prayer.

Although this is a time of change and disruption, it is also a time for us to be imaginative and creative through the use of technology. And as we explore and make adjustments and respond faithfully, we find that, as promised, the Lord is indeed among us.

My friends, we are the body of Christ together, whether we are able to gather together or if we have to temporarily remain apart from one another. We are connected to each other by God's love and the love we have for each other, and we will weather this storm together. The Lord is with us and will be with us always.

Until we meet again, please join me in prayer:

Gracious God, it is good for us to gather as your beloved in community. We treasure your presence with us in word and meal, song and prayer. Be with us in these days when gathering together as often as we would like is not possible. When we must be apart for reasons of safety, we trust that you surround us with your sheltering wings. Encourage us in connecting as we are able, reaching out to our neighbors in need and being persistent in prayer. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our constant companion. Amen.

My sisters and brothers, be safe and well, take good care of each other, and God's peace be with you all,

Pastor Derrick Fallon