Subject: Covid-19 (Coronavirus)  

Thursday, March 19, 2020

To all St Luke Union Church Family,

During our March Vision and Ministry Council (VMC) meeting, COVID-19 (Coronavirus) was discussed. That conversation included methods of personal prevention, continuous cleaning procedures of the church building, methods for sharing Holy Communion and alternate forms of worship. On March 16th, the decision to not hold in-person worship at St Luke Union Church through the month was made. The church office has been closed and no activities will take place through April 1, 2020. At that time, the Vision and Ministry Council will re-evaluate the current conditions and decide how to move forward. If we are able to physically worship on April 5, 2020, it has been decided to not offer Holy Communion, passing of the peace, or hold hands while singing the doxology.

1. Personal Prevention: Common sense practices of coughing into elbows, washing hands, and limiting personal contact. Included are a few links that can offer further education of healthy practices.
   • http://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-a-z-list/coronavirus

2. The church custodian Juan Galvan has established a cleaning routine with the prevention of germs in mind. These include borrowed practices from his work at State Farm.
   • We have ensured the cleaning materials used are specific to killing the virus.
   • Bathrooms are thoroughly cleaned daily.
   • The sanctuary has been thoroughly cleaned including the wiping of all surfaces and pews. This thorough cleaning will be conducted on a regular basis until further notice.
   • Every Friday, all surfaces and rooms in the office complex are thoroughly cleaned.
   • Special attention is being given to the areas that people touch most frequently including paper towel dispenser, door handles, light switches, toilet flush handles and surface areas.
   • During this time of closure, Juan will be conducting a deeper cleaning of the entire building.

St Luke Union Church is a caring community that has always reached out with a hand of God’s grace, but in this time let us not share in the possible spread of germs. Help avoid the spread of illness, yet share of yourselves through calls, cards, emails, and texts in this time of social isolation. If you have any questions, concerns or needs please call me and we as a church will figure out how best to serve.

Peace of God,
Rev Dr Andrew Gifford