

To Our Dear Church Family,

As these are uncertain and trying times, we are comforted in the truth of God's word, which tells us, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33 (NIV). God also tells us, "(my) Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. (John 14:27 NIV). Isn't it comforting to know that we don't have to be afraid, we don't have to be troubled, that God has overcome the world.

However, in an abundance of caution the leadership of Good Shepherd, has decided, in keeping with the fourth commandment, to abide by the recommendations of our Federal and State governments in an attempt to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus by limiting the gathering of large groups. To this end, we will be suspending all Sunday Worship services, Sunday School, Wednesday Lenten suppers and Lenten Services, until we gather together again on Sunday April 5th. We also ask that all other church related activities take heed of the recommendations to limit gatherings of 10 or more people. Church leadership will be meeting on March 26th to revisit our decision based upon any changes in governmental recommendations. During this time, we will be posting Pastor's weekly messages on line, in advance, covering key elements of the Divine Worship, including invocation, confession, absolution, message and benediction. It has also been decided that during this time, visitation of shut-ins will also be suspended.

This will be a difficult time for our church family as we are already experiencing financial difficulty, so we ask that you would prayerfully consider your giving and as appropriate, send or bring your tithe to the church, or you may also give through the GivePlus online portal that has been established, (<https://giveplushelp.vancopayments.com/>). If you have questions regarding the online application, please contact the church office.

In closing, we ask that you pray for our church, our state, our country and the world. We are told in Romans 8:28 that "all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." We know God is in control and can use these uncertain times to His glory, and turn His people back to Him in reconciliation and prayer.