



# Christ Lutheran Church

## of Alamo Heights

March 19, 2020

“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.” Jesus first offered these comforting words to his disciples as they anxiously looked toward a time when he would no longer be readily present with them. We may feel similarly as we look at the spread of COVID-19 and wonder how God is walking this wilderness journey with us. We, your pastors, assure you that God is most certainly still here, ever present, offering these same words of comfort today.

While our hearts are troubled and our fears are real, there is also much room for hope. If we follow public health precautions, respect government guidelines, and reach out to help those in need, we will make it through this together. This is not a time to panic, but a time to come together for the sake of the public good, even while we are physically apart.

As your pastors, we plan to continue to be present with all of you through this critical time. We will be livestreaming worship at one Sunday service at 9:30 a.m. until further notice. All activities in our building are canceled until then. We encourage you to tune in Sunday mornings so we might continue to feel a sense of the faith community that binds us together at Christ Lutheran. We will send out regular “pastoral notes” via Constant Contact & Facebook, offering spiritual insights while we navigate these wilderness times. We are working to make Faith University class content available online. Carrie Jowers, Director of Faith Formation, will send out spiritual activities for families to engage in at home while schools are closed, and will produce materials for “virtual” Sunday School. If you would like to be added to Constant Contact or Carrie’s “Families of Faith” email list, please notify the church office. The church office remains open (Monday through Thursday during our regular hours of 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), and the pastoral staff is readily available. We will close the church office on Fridays during this interim.

Accessing worship is easy. Go to our web page ([www.clcah.org](http://www.clcah.org)), scroll down past the main banner and click on “Worship Livestream.” You should be directly connected to YouTube, where you can participate in the service. After worship each Sunday, the video will remain available for those unable to join us at 9:30 a.m. If you prefer to utilize Facebook, we will make the links to worship available on our Facebook page as well.

Online giving is also easy to do directly from our website. You will see an offering button on the main page that you can click, which takes you to our giving page. You have the option to give through PayPal or use a credit or debit card. You can also send your offering by regular mail. We are not unaware that these are challenging times economically, but your continuing stewardship will be critical in ensuring the success of our ministries. We have pledged to support all of our employees in our Day School and church throughout this hardship. Some of you may not be able to give as fully as you’d like, and of course, we understand. Others may be less impacted by recent events and able to support the ongoing needs of our faith community. We appreciate your prayerful consideration of this important reality in our ministry.

Please know we are here to help you in any way we can. We are looking for ministry opportunities in the midst of these trying times, and we will respond as a faith community in the best ways we can. Please contact the church office if you need any assistance.

--Pastors Leslie & H

**Please Note:**

To best address community health concerns, we are constantly monitoring changes, cancellations, recommended safety precautions, and other unexpected interruptions in our lives. This is temporary, and we prayerfully advise patience, hope and faith that all shall be well.

As a result, this letter will replace our April Proclaimer. We are saddened that we cannot offer the usual news about events for children, families, education, worship, social activities, and the worship plans for the most precious season of our church year, Holy Week and Easter. Please know we will keep you apprised of adjustments through Constant Contact and Facebook. If you do not utilize e-mail or Facebook, please contact the church office. We are compiling a separate list of those who do not use e-mail so that we can physically mail the “pastoral notes” and other information to you on a regular basis. Please watch these sources for updates.

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