

# *Luther's Letter – Special Edition*

COVID 19 Update     March 18, 2020

Martin Luther Lutheran Church, P O BOX 362; Carmine, TX 78932

## **Our Situation in March 2020**

The COVID-19 virus has turned our daily lives upside down. There is almost no part of our economy or society that has not been affected by the virus and its spread. While we have not panicked at Martin Luther Lutheran Church, we continue to consult the Texas Health and Human Services, and the Centers for Disease Control for the best information on how to keep our congregation and community safe. With the latest developments, with the recommendation of the President, the CDC, the World Health Organization, state and local officials, and our synodical bishop, the church council has decided to make important changes to our operations.

### **Here are those changes:**

- \*All worship services are suspended until at least Friday, April 3
- \*All classes, events, and committee meetings are suspended until at least Friday, April 3
- \*The church office staff will only be on site as needed. Call before coming by.

### **Senior Citizens and AA**

*If you are involved with outside groups which meet at church facilities, such as Combined Community Action/Senior Citizens, AA, etc., please consult the leadership of those groups to determine any changes in those programs.*

## **Devotional and Worship**

There will be some devotional items made available on the church web site:

[mlccarmine.com](http://mlccarmine.com)

We are also looking into preparing additional resources, such as videos, art, etc. to share for our spiritual enrichment.

### **What to do now**

Here are some things you can be doing at this time to keep connected, to express your faith, to support your church, and to love your neighbor.

\*We will have devotional materials available at the church and on the web site:

[mlccarmine.com](http://mlccarmine.com)

\*Keep in contact with your fellow church members and friends. Phone calls, letters, email, and social media can all be used to keep connected. You are especially encouraged to keep in contact with individuals who are more isolated due to age, health, or other circumstances.

\*Pray for one another, the church (both local and around the nation and world), for those who are sick, for medical and emergency personnel, for the lonely, for those who have lost income due to this health crisis.

\*Join in the daily Bible Reading program noted elsewhere in this mailing.

\*Remember your regular offerings to God through the church. The church expenses will continue during this time. Additionally, these are an important aspect of your faith expression. You are encouraged to resolve to keep

faithful to your giving at this challenging time.

Here are ways you can keep up your offerings during this time away:

- send your offering by mail to the church office.

- set aside your offerings each week, and then bring these to church when you can be at worship again.

- give offerings through the church web site:

[mlccarmine.com/online-giving](http://mlccarmine.com/online-giving)

This page has a link to our secure giving page. Offerings can be made by bank draft, debit card, or credit card through this special web site.

\*Get plenty of rest, eat properly, wash your hands regularly, and pay attention to special notices by government authorities regarding this pandemic situation. If you are having health issues, seek medical attention.

## **Holy Week**

We will continue to assess the situation. Holy Week (April 5-12) is the centerpiece of our church year. Even so, if needed, we will continue the suspension of worship and activities during that time.

Look for future communications regarding any such plans.

### **Feel free to contact me:**

Pastor David Tinker

Mail to church office

Email:

[pastordjt@industryinet.com](mailto:pastordjt@industryinet.com)

Cell – 713-461-8007

Office – 979-278-3388