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As a people created in the image of Jesus Christ we are created for communion, not isolation; for joy and not fear; for self-giving love and not self-preservation. But it is must also recognized that we have been created as a people in Christ who protect one another. It is on the strength of such a recognition that the following decision has been made.

Factoring both the recommendation to suspend public worship by our synodical bishop (published 3/16/20), and the new COVID-19 limitations put in place yesterday (3/16/20) by our local, state, and federal governments, effective immediately, we have decided to suspend all services of worship and all functions/programming at United Lutheran through **4 April 2020** (*at which point the circumstances will be re-evaluated*).

What this means:

- All services of worship, education classes (Sunday School, Text Studies, Confirmation, Women's Bible Studies) and other gatherings (i.e., quilters, Wonder Women, etc.) will be canceled during this time.
- No outside groups are permitted to meet at United during this time.
- Worship will be posted to the website – www.unitedlutheranlincoln.com (order of service and recorded sermon) and Facebook (sermon, short order of prayer and scripture).

As you well know, the situation is fluid and changing day by day. Along with you, we will stay on top of events.

What you also need to know:

The ministry, mission, and maintenance of United Lutheran, as with the ministry of the ELCA, continues. Though we are unable to gather for worship "on site," we are busy preparing worship for various media outlets (listed above), as well as attending to the day to day duties of pastoral care (as permitted) and the weekly litany of administrative duties required to operate a congregation. We still support missions and ministries for the vulnerable during this time. "Need" – and the ministries we support that serve "Need" – never ends. Your generosity is as important now as it ever was.

Again, because we are not physically in worship together does not mean "church stops." Know that United's ministry continues during this time.

Therefore, if you are not giving electronically already, your weekly offering envelopes may be sent through the mail: United Lutheran Church, 5945 Fremont St., Lincoln, NE 68507

If you would like to sign up for automatic, electronic giving, please contact the church office at 402-466-2277.

Finally, on a pastoral note: Limit your access to 24/7 news outlets. These only drive up anxiety and animus. For objective, measured information regarding COVID-19, please refer to cdc.gov (the Center for Disease Control's website).