

Trinity Lutheran Church

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Ministering Among Us: Pastor Jakob Valsson

Jeremiah 3:15 (ESV) "And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding."

Pastoral Letter, March 19, 2020.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

When this year began I remarked to my wife that everything felt a bit “off” somehow. At the time I was reflecting on being sick over Christmas with a nasty lung infection and as result was unable to either conduct or attend any services, which left me feeling out of touch with the regular rhythm of the Church Year. Little did I suspect that all of us would find ourselves cancelling all services, for the time being, on account of the COVID-19 virus. It is scarcely a coincidence that all this happens during Lent, a season where we reflect on our sin and subsequent mortality.

As things stand now, we have received a letter from Lutheran Church Canada president Rev. Timothy Teuscher urging congregations to temporarily suspend normal worship services and meetings.

<https://www.canadianlutheran.ca/concerning-covid-19-statement-from-lcc-president/> Our congregation here at Trinity Lutheran Church has a large number of people who, on account of their age, fall into the group of people that is at greater risk from the virus than those younger. We have therefore decided to suspend all services until further notice. This is done in an effort to be both good Christians and responsible citizens. However, the church office will be open Monday through Thursday 9:00am to 1:30pm and, as always, I am no more than a phone call away for any who need me. I also plan to have the church sanctuary open for those who wish to come in and pray during those same hours. There is plenty of space so that we can pray without “getting too close.” All I ask is that you phone ahead so we know how many are coming in to pray at any given time. I am more than happy to visit with any and all who come by as my office is well suited to proper “spacing.”

For those who have not signed up for the PAD program might wish to consider doing so now by contacting Susan, but if you do not wished to then I encourage you to drop off your offerings during office hours so that our normal operating expenses will not suffer, only call ahead. I would also ask that you not send in e-mails with all kinds of unsolicited advice regarding COVID 19,

etc. as it serves no real purpose. Matters are being handled to the best of our ability and we will improvise as needed.

There are plenty of resources available online, including numerous Lutheran Churches and seminaries that live stream services.

<https://www.canadianlutheran.ca/covid-19-lcc-recommends-suspension-of-church-services-releases-materials-for-home-devotions/> Follow the link for details on how to use our Lutheran Service Book for devotions. I would encourage you to borrow a copy from the church, only let us know so we can keep track, and use it at home. You will find it to be a real treasure for worship and prayer as well as some of the best hymns the Holy Christian Church possesses.

I would urge all of you not to neglect prayers and Bible readings at home. Pray for our nation and its leaders, pray for your neighbors, friends and loved ones and pray for all the medical staff who are serving faithfully in the midst of all this. We should not panic, but see this as an opportunity to pray and serve as opportunities arise. The Holy Christian Church has faced much worse and not only endured but thrived! As we should at all times, we need to look up for our redemption is always drawing near and this current crisis is no exception.

In Christ
Pastor Jakob Valsson

*Nar-Anon Meetings
have been cancelled
until further notice.*

TLC OFFICE HOURS

Mon - Thurs:

9:00am - 1:30pm

Friday & Holidays-Closed

Please make arrangements in advance should you require access to the church outside of posted hours. *Thank you*



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SUPPORTING MY HOME CONGREGATION IN DIFFICULT TIMES - March 27, 2020

“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” - Galatians 6:10

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Due to circumstances well beyond our control, we find ourselves in a situation where we, as God’s people, cannot gather in our normal places of worship to receive God’s gifts. While Lutheran Church–Canada and many congregations have taken steps to provide devotional resources, sermons, bible studies, and even complete Divine services online, we are all faced with the challenge of how to continue giving our regular tithes and offerings to support the local ongoing Word and Sacrament ministry of our congregations, especially if we are not allowed to leave our homes.

An increasing number of jurisdictions have issued shelter-in-place orders, discouraging even those who may want to visit the church to drop off their offerings. Even placing post-dated cheques in the mail may prove somewhat difficult if they cannot be picked up at the church. Although we recognize that we may not be able to give as much at this time, we know that without our giving, we may put a great stress on our congregation’s finances and its ability to do its work.

If your congregation has already taken steps to receive your gifts online or through pre-authorized debit, that is a joy to hear, and they will be greatly

blessed. However, if your congregation does not have this ability, please consider the following option:

Lutheran Church–Canada has enhanced its website to **include the option of giving directly to your home congregation**. When you visit www.lutheranchurchcanada.ca and click on the “Support My Home Congregation” link on the home page, you will be directed to a secure, online giving portal. You may also use this link to go directly there <https://lutheranchurch-canada.tng-secure.com>.

Once there, choose **“Donate to My Congregation” under Featured Funds**. Following the instructions, enter the amount of your donation/offering and select your congregation from the dropdown list. Enter the required information on the subsequent forms including your credit card information and complete your gift. Should you want to repeat this process weekly, you may find it easier to register once, although this is not necessary. You will receive an immediate donation receipt from LCC (not your congregation) and your congregation will receive a cumulative total once a month of all gifts it has received.

There may be other options available depending on your circumstances, however we hope the above option is helpful and a blessing to congregations.

If you have any questions please contact LCC Administrator Dwayne Cleave via email at administratorlcc@lutheranchurch.ca or call 800-588-4226 x219. May our gracious God continue to guide us through these difficult times and grant His peace and healing.

**WEDNESDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY
WITH PASTOR NORM MILLER @ 10:00AM, will be cancelled
until further notice ☹**

WEDNESDAY –April 1– Soup Supper will be cancelled

ABBOTSFORD FOOD BANK

5 Most Needed Items

1. **Hearty Soup**
2. **Canned Meat**
3. **Canned Veg**
4. **Rice**
5. **Peanut Butter**

Check out this handy Shopping List. Bring it with you the next time you shop for your family!

When you give to the Abbotsford Food Bank, you inspire hope. You also ensure that those in our community get the emergency support that they need when they need it. And that's life-changing.

There are 3 large baskets located in the back of the church Narthex for all who wish to contribute.

When these baskets are full, the AFB picks up your donations for distribution.

Thank you for your generosity. You make a world of difference.

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE PAD?!! Pre-Authorized Debit

Available at Trinity Lutheran Church – check it out! Please consider the PAD for your convenience. Paper free, this program allows you to contribute to the church by automatic monthly debit. Bad weather or vacations will not interfere with your tithing. **You can subscribe or unsubscribe at any time. Please contact Susan, Church Treasurer, if you would like more information.**

