



St. Paul Lutheran Church

10792 N. County Road 210 E.

Seymour, Indiana 47274

April 1, 2020

Dear Fellow Workers in the Gospel,

The congregational council met on March 31st, and I want to let everyone know about the decisions made at that meeting.

After prayer and much thoughtful discussion the decision was made to extend the suspension of all in person worship and activities at church until May 1st. This decision included everyone's thoughts as well as input from various medical personnel from the congregation.

Additionally, there was talk about attempting to have some type of drive-in style worship on Easter which would attempt to have social distance and yet have a gathering for this Holy Day within the church. It is not easy as a pastor to not have people gather physically to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. However, the medical professionals were unsure about the wisdom of attempting such a gathering. Part of seeking God's will in difficult times is to listen to the various voices and realize that God is at work in all kinds of ways. Listening to these voices along with a lot of hesitancy by council members and myself, the decision was made to not attempt a gathering on Easter.

However, the suggestion was made that the first Sunday we are back worshipping in person, we would celebrate Easter. The Early Church viewed every Sunday as a little Easter and was a celebration of the resurrection, thus our first worship service back it would be appropriate to recognize as Easter.

Additionally, the decision was made to postpone the Rite of Confirmation. Confirmation Sunday was to be May 3rd. Because of the uncertainty of the times and wanting to give people time to invite and feel comfortable traveling for this special day for many young people, I will be working with the parents to choose a date in mid-August.

The council will be meeting on April 13th, our regular meeting time and will be discussing if additional changes need to be made at that time based upon available information. Any decisions will be communicated to the congregation.

As always, I am available to communicate with by phone. Feel free to contact me if needed for conversation and/or prayer.

Please join me in praying this prayer from A Prayer Book for the Armed Services:

Eternal God, amid all the turmoil and changes of the world your love is steadfast and your strength never fails. In this time of fear, danger, and trouble, be to us a sure guardian and rock of defense. Guide the leaders of our nation and nations around the world with your wisdom, comfort those in distress, and grant us courage and hope to face the future; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

In God's Radical Grace,

Stephen M. Wood

Rev. Stephen Wood
Pastor

Trish Tangman
Director of Care Teams

Jamie Baker
Interim Director of Youth
& Family Ministries

Jennifer Duncan,
Director of Borchers
Preschool

Michelle Wood
Secretary

812-522-7364 Church
812-522-7484 Church
812-522-7484 Preschool

e-mail:
stpaul.lutheran@stpaul-borchers.org

Sunday
8:00 & 10:15 A.M.

Sunday School
9:10 A.M.