



Hope Lutheran Church of Warren

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Dear Hope Family,

At times like these I often retreat into literature, so indulge me as I [share this quote](#):

"I wish it need not have happened in my time," said Frodo.
"So do I," said Gandalf, "and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us."

— J.R.R. Tolkien, The Fellowship of the Ring

As I said in my Sunday sermon, I truly believe that God placed us here for such a time as this. It will not be easy. It is not what any of us want. We may feel like we have no control. But God has given to His people this time. God has placed us in the here and the now to be salt and light. Let us praise Him for it.

By now I am sure you have heard about the "stay at home" order declared by Gov Whitmer on Monday. What will we do? We will continue to adapt. So what is changing?

- The church office will be physically closed more much of the week. It will be staffed from 9-11 am on Mondays and Noon-2 pm on Thursdays. However, we will be virtually open. Email and voicemail will be responded to, but please do not make visits to the church.
- Since the governor's order is in effect through April 13, all church events through April will be cancelled or rescheduled. This includes the All Team Planning Retreat.
- Pastoral care remains unchanged, although we will do as much through phone and teleconferencing as possible. If you have an issue, please give me a call. I want to hear from you. My cell number is 586.549.6196.

- Lenten services will be streamed out at 6 pm on Wednesday. The recording will be available afterward. **Maundy Thursday** will be streamed at 6 pm, with drive up communion from 7-8 pm. **Good Friday** will be streamed out at 6 pm. Both **Palm Sunday** and **Easter** will be special service orders, but be streamed out at 9 am with communion following ... I look forward to hearing about your Easter breakfast.
- Steve and I will continue to do chapel on Wednesday at 11am. I hope to see you online!
- Sunday service will continue to be streamed out Sunday at 9am, with communion being offered drive up from 10am to NOON. Note the change there. Please come in the entrance by the blessings box, and leave via the entrance by the chapel. Stay in your vehicle. I will come to you.
- Remember, all streaming content can be found at hopewarren.com, even Amanda's Awesome Sunday School Stream. And watch our Facebook pages for fun things that pop up! [Facebook.com/hopelutheranwarren](https://www.facebook.com/hopelutheranwarren) and [Facebook.com/Dan.howard](https://www.facebook.com/Dan.howard)

I know this has been a lot of change; much of it unwanted and uninvited. But I also want to remind you of what hasn't changed. God is not any less faithful to His people. His passion for you has not changed. And so again, check on your neighbors, share words of peace and comfort. We need that reminder constantly. And please remember, this epidemic is not divine punishment from an angry God. This is the wages of sin, nothing more, and nothing less. We are the people of Hope. We have been created, commissioned and sent by God for such a time as this! You carry the words of eternal life, hope and peace. Speak them boldly, my friends.

Stay at Home, Be safe, God Bless.

- Pastor Dan