



### **Our Mission**

To Worship, Live, Love, Learn and Teach the Word of God in Christ.

*God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear,  
though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake  
in the heart of the sea;  
though its waters roar and foam, though  
the mountains tremble with its tumult.*

Psalm 46:1-3

Dear Members and Friends of Emanuel,

Because of the ever escalating severity of the threat of COVID-19 / Coronavirus, we need to ask, "How do we continue to Worship, Live, Love, Learn and Teach the Word of God in Christ?" during this public health crisis.

In a note from the Metropolitan New York Synod, Bishop Egensteiner says:

*"After much consideration and wise advice, **we urge all congregations to postpone or cancel all in-person gatherings, including services, events, meetings, and Bible studies, through March 31.** This is following the recommendation from the Office of the Mayor and Governor. Contact with one another must be kept to a minimum in order to ensure everyone's safety."*

Therefore, the Executive Committee of the Congregation Council has decided that **all in-person gatherings, including worship services, events, meetings, and Bible studies will be cancelled at Emanuel through March 31.** The plan now is that **our next in-person gathering of the congregation will for worship on Palm / Passion Sunday, April 5, 2020 at 9:00 am and 11:15 am.**

The Executive Committee wants to urge everyone to practice social distancing, along with thorough and prescriptive hygiene. These two practices are our best defenses in curbing the impact of this virus.

In light of this decision, we have attached worship materials for you to join in Emanuel's worship - at the home.

1. **The Worship Folder for Lent 3** (including the 1st & 2nd Readings and the Psalm)
2. **The Gospel** (as a dramatic reading in three parts:  
1 - Narrator, 2 - Jesus, 3 - Woman at the Well) - have fun with this!
3. **The Sermon & Prayers** (read the sermon - alone or have one person read it, and then discuss the texts and the sermon with the others in your worshiping circle). Feel free to assign parts of the service to different people to lead / read. Sing the hymns, if you know the tune (alone or as a small group), or read the words out loud (alone or as a small group).

**And, then have your own Coftea time!**

Also, remember that Emanuel's worship services are posted on You Tube sometime on Sunday afternoon or early in the week. We are investigating having a a live stream of the service in the near future. A direct link to Emanuel's You Tube site is listed below - just click on it it, and you should be taken there directly.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/EmanuelLutheranMedia>

**So in the end, it is our hope that we will be joined in common worship until Palm / Passion Sunday in 100 or more homes.**

The Congregation Council encourages everyone to call and write to one another. In this time when social distancing is absolutely essential to reduce the spread of this virus, staying in touch is also essential.

We want you to reach out by phone or email to any member of the Council, the Pastor, Deacons or Staff – just to chat or pray or with any need or concern you have.

We will continue our Mission together (but in new ways), trusting in God and caring for one another. God is and will be our refuge and strength through the troubles of this virus crisis.

Prayerfully Yours in Christ Jesus,

***The Congregation Council and Pastor of Emanuel Lutheran Church***

