

Dear St. Luke Family,

As you know, the world and the ways in which we interact with one another have been significantly impacted by concerns surrounding the virus COVID-19 which has been classified as a pandemic by the World Health Organization. As you are aware, numerous sporting events, large gatherings, and worship services have been cancelled to mitigate the spread of the virus.

As a faithful response to the safety of our community, church leadership at St. Luke has determined that we will suspend all in-person worship services immediately. This includes Sunday School, Sunday Worship, Wednesday Morning Bible Study, Lenten Vespers and Soup Supper on Wednesdays, and any other scheduled in-person meetings and events. We will reassess on March 26 as we continue to monitor the situation and remain in prayerful discernment about next steps.

This is an unusual and disappointing time for those who rely on our church community for spiritual support and encouragement. Yet, as I have been reminded recently, Jesus always placed the most vulnerable and marginalized at the center of his ministry. Although we are making a significant sacrifice, we do so with the health and well-being of our community and society in our hearts and minds.

We won't be meeting in person, but that doesn't mean we have to give up worship or our sense of community. There are many innovative strategies that churches are using and leaders are readily sharing resources to sustain our congregations. As we learn and explore new ways of being together, I pray that we can remain patient and engaged. For this Sunday, we will record a sermon and publish it on our website and Facebook page. The Southeastern Synod is creating online Sunday sermons that will be published on their website as well..

As our community explores different ways of connecting, we could use the input of congregants who have gifts and experience in this area: particularly technological, audio-visual, and communication expertise and experience. If you are interested in helping our church in this way, please contact Pastor Noah at 404-902-2797 or pastor.noah@stlukeatlanta.org.

Let's also not forget the time-tested and effective methods of a phone call or handwritten note. Please stay in touch with one another, pray for one another and the world, let church staff and leadership know of any needs you have, and BE the body of Christ. We will get through this together.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Noah

P.S. Here are a couple of articles if you need more help or information understanding this decision: [A Scientific Perspective](#) and [A Theological Perspective](#).