

CORONAVIRUS (COV19) PRECAUTIONS/SAFETY TIPS

In this time of increased awareness of public health, we want to share with you how Muhlenberg is responding to the current coronavirus concerns.

WORSHIP: At this time, it is not necessary to cancel worship services. We encourage all parishioners to use common sense: **if you are not feeling well** (particularly if you are experiencing fever, cough, or shortness of breath) or are immune-compromised, **please stay home**. Even if you think you are completely healthy, **we invite you to wash your hands when you enter the church, and again after you leave**. **While we know it's impossible to prevent all contact between people and surfaces on which a virus may land, we're going to do what we can to reduce contact.**

- **Greeting One Another:** At the sharing of the peace, and at the end of the service when greeting the pastors, **we will not shake hands. We will share the peace only verbally.** You may find it meaningful to place your hand on your heart and bow slightly as you greet one another with the peace of Christ.
- **Communion:** **We will be particularly conscious of serving communion in a way that limits the number of people who come in contact with the elements. We ask communion servers to wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water. Pastors will "drop" the wafer into individuals' hands so hands do not touch, and communion assistants will pour the wine into individual cups without touching the recipient.**
- **Bulletins and Offering:** Until the threat of the virus has passed, **we will not re-use bulletins.** Everyone will receive a "new" bulletin as they enter, and used bulletins will be recycled. **An offering basket will be located near the baptismal font.** You are encouraged to place your offering there on your way in or out of the service.

BUILDING CLEANING: Our sextons have stepped up cleaning and disinfecting, particularly door knobs, handrails, and tabletops. We've encouraged leaders of Harrisonburg-Rockingham Day Care and Second Home to also maintain best cleaning practices.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER CHURCH: We will continue to gather, but instead of self-serve buffet, **persons wearing gloves will serve the food to avoid multiple people handling serving utensils.** We will wash all dishes in the dishwasher and thoroughly wipe down tables with disinfectant. For communion, **we will receive only the bread.** We believe that Jesus is truly present through communion and the crucified and risen Christ is fully present for us in, with, and under this one element.

STAY CONNECTED: If you do not come to worship for any reason, there are **multiple ways to stay connected with the church.**

- **Church website** (www.muhlenberglutheran.org):
 - Listen to the sermons
 - Read *The Chimes*
 - Receive updates and news of cancellations
 - Make your weekly offering electronically
- **Facebook** (www.facebook.com/MuhlenbergLutheran/):
 - We are now livestreaming 11 am worship! Worship along with the congregation wherever you are.
 - See notices about upcoming services and events, and photos of life in the congregation.
 - Receive updates and news of cancellations.
- **Emails** (Make sure the church office has your current email address! Complete a pink card available in pews.):
 - Weekly email on Monday will provide link to Sunday's worship service on video as well as links to the bulletin, *The Chimes*, and electronic giving.
 - Notices about cancellations and important health updates will be sent periodically as well.

STAY CALM: Repeatedly in Scripture we hear the words, "Do not be afraid." **While we need to be smart and careful, we do not need to be fearful.** Keep up with the news and advice from medical authorities. The Virginia Department of Health Coronavirus Update page (vdh.virginia.gov) is a good source, but take care not to become obsessed with news about the outbreak. **God is with us**, and we trust that God will give us wisdom, strength, and discernment. Remembering our special calling as followers of Jesus, let us continue to look for ways to care for one another without taking unnecessary risks.

We will continue to monitor the situation and update our response if needed. *See reverse side for a handwashing tip.*

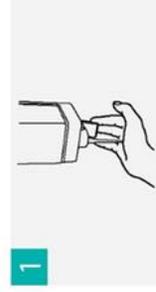
wash & pray

Scientific studies have shown that thoroughly washing your hands with soap and warm water for 20-30 seconds helps prevent the spread of germs. Coincidentally, the Lord's Prayer takes about 30 seconds to say aloud or in your head. So next time you're washing your hands, use that half minute to pray AND help prevent the spread of germs!



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Our Father in heaven,



1

hallowed be your name,



2

your kingdom come,
your will be done,



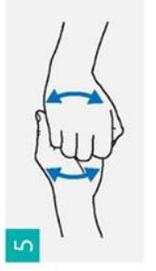
3

on earth as in heaven.



4

Give us today our daily
bread.



5

Forgive us our sins



6

as we forgive those who
sin against us.



7

Save us from the time of
trial



8

but deliver us from evil.



9

for the kingdom, the
power, and the glory are
yours



10

now and forever.



11

Amen.

