

March 20, 2020

All In-Person Church Programming Cancelled

(To be reviewed by Church Council April 2nd).

Sunday Service Option Available on Church YouTube Channel

“In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.” 1 Peter 1:6-7

The Government of Saskatchewan declared a state of emergency on Wednesday March 18, 2020 which included closing the schools, limiting public gatherings of over 50 people, and recommending the avoidance of non-essential travel. Shortly thereafter, it became clear that as a church leadership group we needed to find a way forward together despite some significant limitations. We met last night (with some members joining via video-conference) and spoke candidly about the situation at hand. One of the chief concerns for all was the health and safety of the most vulnerable members of our church and community. After a time prayer and discussion, we arrived together at the following conclusion:

“As per the current government recommendations, effectively immediately the church board is cancelling ALL in person church programming, including Sunday morning services. Where possible we will look for ways to connect online and over the phone, including a YouTube playlist each Sunday. This will be effective until April 2nd, at such time we will review the decision.”

Please know that this decision was not made easily or lightly. One of the main concerns raised was how we could remain connected even as we were not able to meet in person. We will do our best to utilize electronic resources to remain spiritually connected even as we spend time physically apart.

We will continue to post an updated bulletin each week on the church website as one way of staying in touch.

In place of our usual service, we will post a playlist to the church’s YouTube channel each Sunday by 8:00AM. A sample devotional service is available already in the “playlist” section of the YouTube page:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCloI_9Sod-3-qskvoqDbiQw/playlists

We recognize that we each face unique hardships because of the social restrictions necessary for the protection of our public health at this time. Even though that is the case, we will continue to be available to each other by phone, text, e-mail, and video chat. **We also have members who are willing to run essential errands for those who cannot leave their homes at this time.** If you need that kind of assistance, or have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask a deacon, church council member or Pastor Kevin.

We appreciate your continued prayer and support as we continue to follow Jesus together.

Yours In Christ,

Pastor Kevin
On Behalf of the Carrot River Mennonite Church Council