



# Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills

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Pastor Timothy Bickel

A Congregation of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. – Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)*

March 17, 2020

Good Shepherd Members and Friends,

COVID-19 is impacting the way we live. For the moment, 'normal' does not exist. We may feel anxious about what each day may bring. But our God is with us. His love is unchanging. He will guide us and strengthen us through this situation.

Good Shepherd remains committed to meeting your needs and to the safety, health, and well-being of all those using our facility and to whom God calls us to serve. To that end and given the recommendations of the CDC and Allegheny County, the church office will *not* be staffed on a regular basis until further notice. However, emails and phone messages will be monitored throughout the day. *All church activities are postponed effective immediately until further notice.* All groups are encouraged to continue to meet via video conferencing. We suggest using Zoom (<https://zoom.us/>) or Skype (<https://www.skype.com/en/>).

*For everyone's safety, in-person visits to our members, the sick, and the homebound are temporarily on-hold.* We ask that if you have any special needs you first reach out to your elder. Please contact the church office ([office@goodshepherdpittsburgh.org](mailto:office@goodshepherdpittsburgh.org)) if you have any special concerns regarding this request, or if you need contact information for your elder.

This time can be especially difficult for those who are alone or ill. Individually, we can each reach out with a phone call, an email, or a text to say 'hello' to our neighbor and be their bright spot in a long day. Our social distance does not need to be spiritual distance from God nor should it keep us from shining forth His love into each other's lives or the world. We remain the Whole Body of Christ, with Christ, in Christ despite our physical separations.

Be assured, worship with a Sunday message by Pastor Tim will continue. Pastor's message will be available via YouTube. If you have questions about accessing these online messages, please contact the church office.

We thank you for your patience and support in these challenging times. We will continue to maintain communication with you as the situation evolves. We ask for your prayers for our congregation, community, nation and world.

In Christ,

Pastor Tim Bickel

Scott Thurston, President

Ray Vogel, Elder Chair

*The LORD bless you and keep you;  
the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;  
the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. – Numbers 6:24-26 (ESV)*