

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church and School  
315 9<sup>th</sup> St. S.  
St James MN 56081

## Cancellations and our new plan

Our Church Council has discussed and approved the plan below. We will also mail this out and attempt to call all our members to ensure that everyone in our church family knows our plans and can communicate any needs to us. Prior to Easter, Church Council will reassess the situation and adjust our plans appropriately.

Thank you for your prayers for our ministry, our members, and our leadership. Please also continue to pray for our community, the sick, those serving them, and our local and national leaders.

## COVID-19: Plans for March

*March 20, 2020*

The mission of St. Paul's Lutheran Church is *"St. Paul's Lutheran Church is a family of believers who GROW in God's Word, GLOW from God's Love and GO with the Gospel."*

The methods for accomplishing this will be altered during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our mission continues. We will still do everything we can to connect people to Jesus through His Word and Sacraments. Throughout the month of March, St. Paul's will continue to exist according to its core values: Grow. Glow. Go.

This situation is just getting started, and I can tell you already that we're going to miss seeing you. We pray that this plan is helpful in keeping our church family connected. Even more importantly, we pray that this helps us all stay firmly connected with our Savior.

*Contact information and helpful links are on the "Contact Info and Resources" page.*



315 9<sup>th</sup> St. South  
St James MN 56081

Phone: 507-375-3809  
Email: [secretary@stpaulsstjames.com](mailto:secretary@stpaulsstjames.com)  
Pastor: Martin J Lopahs  
Website: [www.stpaulsstjames.com](http://www.stpaulsstjames.com)

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## Worship

- **Public Worship (weekend and midweek) on campus is suspended until April 12<sup>th</sup>, Easter Sunday, with a plan to have Easter Sunday, 9 a.m. worship.**
- **The week prior to Easter, church council will reassess the situation and make a decision based on the recommendations of the local and national health department's suggestions.**
- **Worship will be available online only until April 12<sup>th</sup>.** Our goal is to post the service by 6:30pm on Saturday evening. You can access it on our website ([www.stpaulsstjames.com](http://www.stpaulsstjames.com)) and select "Sunday Recording". We will also post a link to your Facebook page "St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School, St. James".
- **Those who desire communion can contact Pastor Lopahs to set up an opportunity.**

## Study

All weekly Bible study meetings, including Sunday School and Confirmation Classes, will be suspended through Easter.

## Serve

St. Paul's still wants to provide community even though we can't meet as community. Therefore, we propose the following connections:

### Us to You

Our St. Paul's Elders and/or Care Committee will be attempting to contact every member's home by phone before the end of March.

### You to Us

- Please contact Pastor Lopahs (phone/email/text) if you have any spiritual needs.
- Please contact Grace Kratovil or any of our church leaders for any other needs you may have ("Contact Info and Resources" page).

Klarice Rinne 507-621-0519 (President).

Grace Kratovil 507-822-1079 (Church & School Secretary).



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Church Elder: Gene Brown 507-621-1865

Stewardship: Tim Flitter 507-380-5704

Education: Denny Sander 507-621-0169

### You to You

In this time of uncertainty, we want God's people to reach out to one another with their concerns and to reach out to God in prayer.

**Member: Clarice Fastenau** 507-621-2067 or [SIGN UP](#) to help serve during this national health emergency:

- Running errands (picking up groceries or medicine for the high risk population)
- Calling the elderly or those who are at risk of social isolation during this time of social distancing
- Providing technology support to members who desire to worship online but may not have the skills to navigate the internet

### Share

During these uncertain times, we want to bring people the certainty that comes with knowing the gospel. As people share stories of panic and pandemic, we can make the most of this opportunity by sharing the message of hope Jesus gives.

Live your faith - be the hands and feet of Jesus helping those who may need assistance (groceries, finances, child care)... offer to pray for those you encounter who are anxious or facing job loss, financial strain, etc. This is God-pleasing, loving, and sometimes opens doors and ears to listen to you share your faith.

You know the Good News. Share it! When God gives you an opportunity, share the reason for the hope you have! Do this with confidence, gentleness, respect, and love. Share our website with people at ([www.stpaulsstjames.com](http://www.stpaulsstjames.com)). Invite people to view our worship service online.



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Jesus says, *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”* (John 14:27)

## Give

Thank you for your generous offerings to the Lord. They honor him and enable us to carry out our ministry. Please continue to give. Our current and future ministry depends on your gifts!

- **You may give online.** Follow the [“Online Giving”](#) tab on our website ([www.stpaulsstjames.com](http://www.stpaulsstjames.com)). Through this, you can set up reoccurring offerings or give one-time gifts.
- **You may mail your offering to our St. Paul's Lutheran Church:** 315 9<sup>th</sup> St South, St. James, MN 56081.

## Communication Plan

- Updates will be shared through our email list, [website](#), and Facebook page.
- Would you prefer hearing updates by phone? Please contact Grace Kratovil or Pastor Lopahs so this can be arranged.
- Church Council will communicate prior to Easter to reassess the situation and our plan. We will email and mail our updated plan at that time.



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## Contact Info and Resources

### Contact info (and what for)

**Pastor** (any spiritual needs, request Holy Communion, any "pastoral stuff")

Pastor Lopahs

507-380-6899

[revlopahs@hotmail.com](mailto:revlopahs@hotmail.com)

**Leadership** (church questions - organizational, financial, plans, direction, et cetera)

Klarice Rinne (Church President)

507-621-0519

[klarice41@yahoo.com](mailto:klarice41@yahoo.com)

Grace Kratovil (Church & School Secretary)

507-822-1079

[secretary@stpaulsstjames.com](mailto:secretary@stpaulsstjames.com)

Jared Christensen (School Principal)

507-276-8656

[principal@stpaulsstjames.com](mailto:principal@stpaulsstjames.com)



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## Online Resources

**Worship:** Visit our website (look for "Sunday Recording" at [www.stpaulsstjames.com](http://www.stpaulsstjames.com))  
and our Facebook page.

[Care In Action](#) form (to help serve the high risk)

Contact: Grace Kratovil 507-822-1079

Jared Christensen 507-276-8656

Or follow the Care In Action link

[Online Giving](#) (online giving for reoccurring offerings or give one-time gifts)

*You may also mail your offering to our St. Paul's Lutheran Church:*  
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