

Dear Community at Peace,

This weekend I did the one of the hardest things I've done in my 15 years of ordained ministry. I announced to the 5pm Saturday and 10am Sunday services that we would be suspending worship and all other Peace Lutheran activities through April 19th at least. This means that all those awesome gatherings we had planned including Men's Breakfast, Circles, the Youth Fundraiser, Soup Supper, and Bible Studies are suspended effective immediately. I told your Church Council, "This stinks."

We did not make this decision due to fear, but instead out of hope. It is our hope that by taking these measures we will protect all vulnerable people, young and old. The child with asthma and the adult with a tendency towards pneumonia are the people we are protecting. It would break my heart if any person got sick because of gathering at Peace.

What do we do now?

We are still Peace Lutheran Church and we will worship together. Even if we cannot gather in the same space I ask you to set aside Saturday at 5pm or Sunday at 10am as your time to worship with us from your home. We will live stream Wednesday Lenten and weekend worships on Facebook (search Peace Lutheran Church Billings, MT). We will upload our whole service to our Peace Lutheran YouTube Page (search Peace Lutheran Billings on youtube.com). You can find links to both of those places on our website peacelutheranbillings.com. We will also continue to broadcast services on Community 7 at 9am and 6pm every Sunday.

We will continue to send out our mid-week emails and the newsletter. If you do not receive these, please contact Dean in the office at peaceoffice@bresnan.net.

We are looking at ways to do Bible studies over phone and video conference. If you are interested in those, please contact me at prsappington@gmail.com.

Intern Pastor Melissa and I will be going through all the phone numbers we have to reach out to you. If you do not hear from us, give us a call at 252-5504.

As we figure out how to be your servant leaders in this time I ask for your support as well. The ministry of Peace depends on your support. We are not cutting back the hours of the staff as there is still plenty of work to do to reach

out to you and all neighbors with a word of hope and Peace. If you usually drop your gift in the offering plate you can mail it to us at 1301 Ave D or visit peacelutheranbillings.com, go to the very bottom of the page and click on "Support Peace Lutheran Church." Call Dean if you are interested in signing up for Simply Giving.

This is not how I imagined Lent 2020 playing out. I am available to you at any time. Do not hesitate to call. I do know that our community and our neighbors need what we have to offer. We offer a word of Peace from the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ. My peace is with you and I look forward to gathering with you again when we get the go ahead to do so.

Your servant,

Will Sappington