Pastoral Care During This Time of Health Concerns  
Friday, March 13, 2020

Dear Faith Lutheran Church,

Local hospitals have put visitor restrictions in place to address the spread of the Corona-virus. The hospitals and certain assisted care facilities request that community clergy and visitors from faith communities refrain from visiting the hospital. If we learn that members from are in the hospital, pastors and others who provide pastoral care from congregations are asked to reach out to them via phone, text or email. In the case of an emergency, such as an imminently dying patient, pastors are asked to contact the patient’s nurse, primary caregiver, or the hospital chaplain to potentially coordinate a clergy visit.

If you or a loved one is in the hospital and you need to speak to me, you can always call the church office during office hours (515)225-8334 or the Pastoral Emergency number (515) 421-8997. If I, along with Pastor Axness, can help via phone, we will. If we need to visit in emergency situations, we will. Otherwise, we will follow the request of the hospitals and restrict pastoral visits.

The hospitals have also posted instructions about what is needed when we do visit. You should know that I observe these instructions all the time, not just in this case.

With other pastoral care ministry, such as visits to the homebound, we will be adapt as we receive direction and counsel from the facilities and public health agencies, and be in contact with our members before a visit.

The Peace of Christ be with you,

Pastor Eric Carlson