



COVID-19 Response – Last Updated 3/20/20 7:50 PM

Following the governor’s recommendation to suspend gatherings of more than 10 people, FLC decided to close our buildings to the public until further notice. Please assume all church-sponsored activities and activities sponsored by our building partners will not take place.

Please note that this document can be revised at any time. **Please check this site frequently**, as we will post updates as available.

- The Church Council President has established a COVID-19 Response Task Force that is in charge of making decisions regarding our activities and procedures at this time
- In-person worship is suspended until further notice. We will begin offering remote access via Internet and telephone as of Sunday, 3/22/2020. There will be no cost to participants
- We are reviewing options to continue Sunday School instruction remotely
- Per orders made by the Governor and Mayor, we will offer Welcome Table Wednesday community meals by takeout only if we feel it is safe to do so
- Please continue to [make your offering online](#) or by mail
- If you need pastoral care, please call 860-347-6068. Leave a message if no one answers
- If you wish to be added to the prayer list, please call 860-347-6068. Leave a message if no one answers.
- We are taking extra precautions to keep our physical space safe and clean for when we return. These include extra cleaning of “high-touch” surfaces such as door handles, pew backs, light switches, keypads, etc.
- We ask our members and friends to pray for each other during this challenging time. Be Christ to your neighbor



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The Funeral Policy of Faith Lutheran Church during COVID 19

For Christians, gathering to mourn the dead, celebrate their life and proclaim the hope of Resurrection are essential practices of our faith. During the extraordinary circumstances of the COVID 19 outbreak, our usual mourning rituals have been interrupted. We think of those women on that first Easter, who went to follow their familiar mourning ritual to anoint Jesus's body, to find it disrupted. We remember their initial shock and confusion and feel it too. We're waiting to feel the hope of resurrection. In times of trial like the death of a loved one, we turn to the familiar practices and rituals of our faith and ancestors. And so, we know that this disruption for a grieving community is doubly hard. We grieve this disruption with you.

We will not risk more deaths in the celebration of life. These guidelines are hard, and necessary to limit the spread of the virus. Abide by them. We believe the good news of life in Christ Jesus can be proclaimed in every circumstance, even this one. During the COVID19 outbreak, on March 10, 2020 Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont declared a State of Emergency. On March 26, he limited gatherings to no more than 5 people. The Centers for Disease Control has recommended no gatherings larger than 10 people. Until the State of Emergency is lifted for Connecticut, we will be limited in our funeral practices in the following ways:

Viewing/Wake: Our church building is closed to the public until the pandemic emergency passes and restrictions concerning gatherings of people is lifted. We have been advised against having a wake or a viewing during this pandemic. The potential for large gatherings and contact is too high. Churches would need many volunteers/ushers to do impossible work of policing the casket, forbidding touching of the casket, preventing hugging of the family, limiting access to five people at a time into the church, lining up outside with appropriate distancing, restricting seating in the church, and cleaning of the church. The logistical and safety considerations are too great. We advise against an in-person wake or viewing during the outbreak therefore we are not able to accommodate a wake in the church building at this time.

Funeral: We are not able to host a funeral service inside the church building at this time.

Graveside: We are able to host a graveside service outdoors and we require that all people practice social distancing of 6 feet between one another who are not currently living in the same household. We are able to accommodate 5 people present. If you would like to stream the service, you may.

Repast: We are not able to host a meal following a funeral at this time.

While we are limited in what we are able to host at this time, we are able to plan for memorials after the pandemic has passed. We would welcome the opportunity to host a memorial service for your loved one at a later date when we can all safely gather and celebrate their life. Hear our affirmation: it is always sacred work to bury the dead. This is additionally complicated. Thank you for understanding.