



November 15, 2020

Dear Members and Friends of Holy Spirit Lutheran Church,

As the Covid-19 cases continue to spike across our province, our Bishop, Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer has strongly recommended in a pastoral letter that all ABT Synod churches suspend in-person worship services for the time being. After consulting with council and staff, it was decided to suspend in-person worship at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church for at least the next two Sundays (November 22 & 29) to keep our church family safe.

We know this is disappointing news for some within our community. Worshipping together in-person has been a tangible sign of support for several of our more isolated members. If you or a loved one is struggling at this time please do not hesitate to reach out for pastoral support or community connection. It is our hope that by doing what we can to help stop the spread of Covid-19 we would positively contribute to our wider community's health and wellbeing.

As always, we invite you to continue to look after one another in socially distant ways, to connect with the pastoral team as needs arise for you and your family, and to continue to be God's people to a world in need of hope and grace. Continue to protect one another and yourself by mask-wearing, hand washing, physical-distancing, and staying at home as much possible.

Hopefully, the numbers of Covid-19 will soon decline and we can gather safely again in person. Until then, we will continue to offer our worship services via live-streamed on our Holy Spirit YouTube channel.

As Bishop Larry said in his pastoral letter attached to this email, "Beloved of God, as people of faith, continue to be humble and gentle with one another. Honour each other. Make space for lament. Welcome moments of joy. Help each other live into hope. Learn from this journey in the coronavirus wilderness and let the learning lead us forward. Trust that God is at work in this time, and look for the new things that God is doing even now."

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Trish Schmermund
Pastor Lindsey Jorgensen-Skakum
HSLC Council Chair Toby Schneider