

## ***Until Further Notice...***

As we come to the close of April we still find ourselves restricting our activities due to the Covid-19 concerns, which includes the closing of our building to gatherings of people over 10. We will continue to operate in that mode, including providing online worship service, until further notice.

### ***Read more:***

Governor Kristi Noem's April 28<sup>th</sup> announcement with regard to "getting back to normal" gives guidelines for us to begin considering gathering together again. While there have not been mandated restrictions placed over us as South Dakota citizens, we've been operating for about the past six weeks in a way to encourage healthy practices for all involved.

Thoughts as we look forward:

While South Dakota as a whole is less affected by the spread of the virus in comparison with much of our country, we in Minnehaha and Lincoln Counties live in an area where community spread of the virus has been (and continues to be) fairly strong and may present a somewhat elevated risk. The City of Sioux Falls continues to recommend more strict standards of preventive behavior.

Many or most of you have been able to connect with us for our regular online worship services. Thank you so much for your feedback and your encouragement! Many others who do not regularly communicate through the internet have been tuning in to our South Dakota District broadcast of "Main Street Living," which includes a worship service at 10:30 AM on KDLT (NBC). In addition, a number of small groups are meeting for Bible Study and fellowship using internet media such as Facetime and Zoom.

While internet media is allowing for good communication, we want to begin gathering for worship soon! As I've heard from many of you, not only do we miss the in-person hearing of the Word, and the face-to-face fellowship of our family, but we miss receiving our Lord's Supper together. In a very physical way He assures us of our connection to Him through forgiveness and the promise of His presence! We want to receive this gift together again – and often!

So . . . we are looking at ways to gradually work toward worshiping together again. Because the time frame is still quite fluid, we are not yet announcing any specific time to gather again here at Memorial. We will, however, announce when we will start gathering people on a gradually increasing basis. We're working on ways to safely gather and provide for movement of people. We are looking at how we can maintain a sanitary environment as we gather groups in increasing numbers. We are considering how we can minimize any transmission risks as we share the Lord's Supper. We are looking at scheduling factors. We're considering when we can begin to offer these gatherings. We will likely be asking you to indicate your intention to attend a particular gathering time so that we can work effectively with numbers.

Even when we begin to start gathering together, we will likely meet for a much briefer period of time to especially offer the Lord's Supper, but will continue to share our main worship service online as we have been doing over the past nearly 6 weeks. Over time we will hopefully move back to our normal gathering – or perhaps find the "new normal," to coin a phrase being used quite often of late. And yes, we are considering what streaming worship services online may look like even as we move into this "new normal."

Let me also just say, the ministry of Memorial is SO blessed by your amazing understanding of financial stewardship through this time. Thanks be to God!

So – no date to announce yet – but keep close attention. The beginning of our return may not be too far away! Blessings in Christ! – I miss you! We all miss you! – Pastor Aaron