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March 13, 2020

Beloved of God,

Following community mitigation recommendations from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) in response to Governor Walz's declaration today of a state of emergency surrounding COVID-19, Mount Olive's Executive Committee has decided to suspend our gatherings for worship, Sunday, and Wednesday activities indefinitely, pending further information from state health authorities. We will not be open for worship or education or fellowship this Sunday and going forward.

Please keep watching for future communications. Things have changed dramatically and quickly in the past 48 hours, let alone the past week or two. That is likely to continue as this pandemic unfolds in Minnesota, in the U.S., and around the world.

Christ has called us together in community, and this situation makes that much harder for us to do. However, we are all in the arms of the Triune God, who loves and keeps us always. We will be finding ways to make regular connections during this uncertain time, so isolation doesn't become too much of a burden on all of us.

Please keep in prayer all the dedicated healthcare workers around the world and in our state, and all who are infected or who will be. If you know any of our siblings at Mount Olive who are living alone, please consider being a regular friendly caller to keep in touch as desired.

And please remember, nothing in heaven and earth, things present or things to come, not life nor death, nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

In Jesus' name,

Pastor Joseph G. Crippen