

## A Statement about conducting services amidst the Coronavirus

You have heard me say, **“We are in this together.”** That is true now more than ever.

We are faced with an unprecedented and fluid situation as the government and the Church seek to care for people in the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic. We hope to strike a balance that honors our government leaders’ directives for the physical health and safety of the general public, while we recognize the need of the local parish to serve the spiritual needs of their communities through Word and Sacrament ministry.

Many congregations are currently considering whether or not to temporarily suspend worship services. A growing number have already done so. All are seeking creative ways to continue to bring people the good news of Christ.

We also want to recognize the concern by some on legal implication of remaining open, especially with those already antagonistic toward the Church. This needs to be in our deliberations. As leaders deliberate over the conducting worship services, I ask them to **utilize godly wisdom** in determining what are the greatest needs of their local community and how best to meet those needs, then prayerfully commit their decisions to the Lord, asking “Thy will be done.”

For congregational members, I ask that you keep your churches, leaders, and pastors in your prayers. Also, I earnestly request that you exercise great patience with your leaders as they address this new day in our country.

For all of us, **please continue to give your tithes and offerings.** Try on-line giving or mail your offerings to your church. This honors our Lord and expresses our trust in His provision.

We continue to lift you all up in prayer at the NID office. Thank you all for your faithful service to Him, and to those around who need to know His love in these hours. May His peace surround you and remind you that we remain in our Lord’s gracious hands [John 10:28] There is no better place to be.

PS. A few minutes from now, I will be part of a Council of Presidents conference call where we will further discuss our Church’s response to this crisis. More information will come.

Your Servant in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Allan Buss,  
President, Northern Illinois District, LCMS