

# Cass City Missionary Church Corona Virus (COVID-19) Preparedness update

3/13/2020

Dear Church Family,

We wanted to update you, as news of the coronavirus (COVID-19) is affecting both our local and global community. We place the highest value on offering a safe and healthy environment for our church family and guests to gather and worship and take their next step towards Loving Jesus, Loving Others, and Proving It. We know this virus is spread primarily through close contact, so we're monitoring updates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and making our plans accordingly.

For many world-wide, this virus is a source of fear and anxiety. As followers of Jesus, we're clear that God has given us a spirit of love and not fear (*For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.* –2 Timothy 1:7). We pray that you will continue to sense God's peace during these circumstances. While we won't be operating from a position of fear, we intend to take the necessary precautions to best serve our community in a way that demonstrates our trust in God.

As our staff and board monitor updates from the CDC, and partners with local officials and medical professionals, we want to share our preparedness measures with you, to explain what we're already doing to limit the spread of germs. This is our current plan of action, as of today, 3/13/2020. **As updates from our local officials and the CDC shift and new information is made known, our plans may have to shift as well.**

## CLEANING

Our phenomenal Facility Care Manager is always hard at work, refreshing rooms, sanitizing bathrooms and surfaces and disinfecting our beautiful spaces each day. You should know that we already use specially formulated disinfecting equipment and solutions, that deep clean and sanitize the spaces throughout our campus. We will continue to utilize these methods, that disinfect both hard and soft surfaces, cleaning with the coronavirus in mind, to provide the safest environment for our children and our guests.

In our children's spaces and classrooms, besides our normal high-level cleaning that takes place frequently, our volunteers are committed to wiping down frequently used surfaces. Hand sanitizer is readily available throughout the building.

In the spirit of hospitality and safety, the ushers/greeters at our doors will help hold exterior doors open to minimize the need to touch door handles. *They will be advised to not shake hands.* While a friendly environment is very important to us and is something very important to our culture, *we will not have greeting time during our services until further notice.* *We also encourage you to greet others without physical contact.* *Feel free to offer a smile and wave.*

## FEELING SICK?

If you're feeling sick or have been sick within the past few days, we strongly encourage you to stay home and [join us online](#). We live stream our weekend services at 8:30 & 10:50 a.m. on Sundays.

As a reminder, in the weeks to come, if you are exposed to, have symptoms of or are being treated for the coronavirus, seeking medical help and self-quarantining are the God-honoring steps to take to avoid infecting others. We encourage understand proper prevention measures to avoid spreading the virus by reading through the CDC recommendations [here](#).

We will keep you updated via email, [facebook](#) and at [casscitymc.org](http://casscitymc.org) as events unfold. Please be in prayer for the Thumb Area and for the world, especially for those who are directly impacted by this virus.

### **GIVING**

Sharing our tithes and offerings is an act of worship and a way to obey and serve God. We recommend that you give your offering and tithes online. It's a great opportunity to set up in advance and faithfully give. You can set that up anytime [here](#). *We will not be passing the offering plates* around during services but will have plates set up on the altar at the front for you to give your offering on the way out of the sanctuary instead.

### **COMMUNION**

We celebrate communion once a month. We started the Easter season with communion on Ash Wednesday. We will delay observing communion again until we believe it is prudent.

### **SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES—'HIS KIDS', XLR8 STUDENTS, & PRAYER MEETING**

With the Governor's decision to close schools for the next few weeks. **All Sunday Night activities, Wednesday Night activities, His Kids, XLR8 Students, and Prayer Meeting are all cancelled.** Our aim is to resume activities April 5th and April 8th respectively.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, during this time of uncertainty in our community and world, be assured that God is still in control. I'm reminded of Jesus in the boat in a storm with his disciples despairing for their lives. They went to Jesus, *"and He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, 'Hush, be still.' And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm. And He said to them, "Why are you afraid?""* (Mark 4:39-40a NASB). It is right for us to take every precaution, but we need to hear and be the voice of Jesus to help quiet the screams of fear and bring calm into this storm of panic. This is our opportunity to be light in darkness and confidently faithful in the midst of a climate of doubt and apprehension.

Trusting Christ with you,

—Pastor Phil, Staff, and Church Board at Cass City Missionary Church