



March 14, 2020

Greetings Lettered Streets Covenant Family,

Yesterday our Leadership Team deliberated, taking into account recommendations by Governor Inslee, Mayor Fleetwood, the CDC, Whatcom County Healthy Dept., and our denominational conference. Together we came to the difficult conclusion that in order to be the best neighbors to the community we are called to serve, we will not be gathering for worship as a church body on Sundays for the foreseeable future.

We know in this season of fear, anxiety, and isolation, our church gatherings have been times of connection and sources of hope, encouragement, and a *thin place* where we encounter Jesus.

While this forced closure is difficult, there are some encouraging thoughts to consider:

- It is temporary. The day will come when we will be able to celebrate together!
- It has happened before and we will survive. Throughout history, plague, violence, persecution, and war have created moments in time when the church is pushed to the margins and forced to adjust. We will come out stronger.
- We get to practice solidarity with our siblings in Christ who suffer on a regular basis from religious persecution and are never allowed to gather in large groups. For every inconvenience, let's remember that for many other followers of Jesus, even meeting in homes for worship carries very real, very dangerous consequences. We are still privileged!
- We have an opportunity to think creatively about how to worship and serve in this new normal of a season of Pandemic.
- Whenever there is crisis and fear there is opportunity for the Church to respond with the love, peace, wisdom, and sacrificial posture of Jesus. How might we be the mouth, hands, and feet of Jesus for each other and our neighbors? I look forward to exploring this!

Lettered Streets Covenant Church

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What LSCC Leadership Is Doing

- The staff will produce worship resources including things like: a sermon podcast, a liturgy containing prayers, songs, readings, etc. We will make this available by 10am on Sunday.
- The Lead Team will be considering ways to keep us connected safely including but not limited to:
 - Checking in with people to ensure that even in isolation, people are cared for.
 - Encouraging people to stay connected in healthy ways through social media, small gatherings of non-symptomatic people, etc. We will help organize some opportunities.
 - Brainstorming creative, safe ways to serve our local community
- Praying for you and our wider community.

Please take a moment to consider some ways we can be good neighbors to one another and to our surrounding community:

What You Can Do

- Stay home if you're not feeling well or have a compromised immune system.
- Stay in contact. If you're not feeling well and are isolated at home, the staff wants to know so we can best care for you!
- Consider the same protocols for small group gatherings, etc.
- Consider hosting a small (10 or less) group for Sunday worship in your home.
- In this culture of fear, hoarding, and isolation, consider how you might be a good neighbor by safely extending generosity, sharing hope, offering community, helping with childcare, calling on an isolated friend or neighbor.
- Resist xenophobic or racist innuendo, jokes, slights, or memes. COVID-19 can *infect* us all and therefore it *effects* us all. Let's not allow it to *affect* us negatively in our thoughts and actions toward others.



- You can continue to give of your tithes and offerings by mailing a check to P.O. Box 5645 Bellingham, WA 98227 or by giving online, [HERE](#).
- Pray! For those on the front lines fighting this virus. For those who are caring for the sick. For the sick. For the vulnerable. For those in the service industry who have been laid off and have lost opportunity for income, and for those who are called to press on and are exposed to the public. For freedom from crippling anxiety, for wisdom, and for courage in Christ.

[Archive of LSCC responses to COVID-19](#)

For More Information About COVID-19

- [CDC Website](#)
- [Whatcom County Health Department](#)