

# MAINTAINING A HEALTHY CHURCH ENVIRONMENT

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Killeen, Texas

## FIVE THINGS **YOU** CAN DO

1. Wash your hands.
2. Don't touch your face.
3. If you're sick, stay home.
4. Continue to give offering.
5. Pray.

## FIVE THINGS THE CHURCH IS DOING

1. Temporarily ceasing the following worship activities: sharing of the peace, passing of offering plates, physical greetings, use of hymnals, re-use of bulletins, attendance folders in the seats, kneeling at the rail for communion, putting water in the baptismal font.
2. Temporarily closing the kitchen: no food or drink will be served before, during, or after worship; events that normally serve food or host potlucks will be postponed until we can reevaluate.
3. Staying in touch: Expect regular communication about steps we are taking and what you can do to help. Please make sure the church office has the correct email for you as this will be our primary means of communication. In addition, you can find information on our Facebook page, in the Sunday morning slideshow, and website.
4. Planning ahead: The Executive Committee and the Pastor have created a plan that will help us face whatever challenges might be headed our way concerning the current outbreak of COVID-19 (coronavirus). This includes plans for communicating information and staying connected to our Immanuel family, suggestions for congregational leaders when it comes to events, figuring out new ways to worship and provide pastoral care to our community in times of crisis, and getting linked to reliable resources (like the CDC) to help us make decisions.
5. Trusting God: Joshua 1:9 tells us to, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for God is with us."

# **COVID-19 Q & A**

## **Immanuel Lutheran Church, Killeen, Texas**

**Q: WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS?**

**A:** Wash your hands - using soap and water, scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds (the time it takes to pray the Lord's Prayer). Use hand sanitizer if soap and water isn't available. Refrain from touching your face, especially your eyes, nose, and mouth. Cough/sneeze into your elbow. Stay home if you're sick.

**Q: WHAT IS COVID-19?**

**A:** According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China. The first case of COVID-19 in the United States was reported on January 21, 2020. The most common symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath.

**Q: WHO IS CONSIDERED TO BE AT HIGHER RISK OF THIS VIRUS?**

**A:** Older adults (the CDC considers this to be anyone over the age of 60 years old), those with chronic illness like diabetes, heart conditions, respiratory problems (including lung diseases such as asthma), and those under treatment for cancer, or with any condition that weakens the immune system.

**Q: WHAT DOES IMMUNOCOMPROMISED MEAN?**

**A:** An immunocompromised person is anyone with an immune system that is impaired or weakened either through medication or illness; those with compromised immune systems have a reduced ability to fight infections and diseases (like Coronavirus).

**Q: WHAT DO I DO IF I'M SICK?**

**A:** Please contact your healthcare provider and follow their instructions.

**Q: ARE THESE PRECAUTIONS REALLY NECESSARY?**

**A:** All of the precautions we are taking are out of an abundance of care and concern for the health and well-being of the Immanuel Lutheran Church community. The changes we are making are only temporary and are being made in order to protect the most vulnerable members of our community.

**Q: WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?**

**A:** The best resources for accurate and reliable information concerning the current outbreak of COVID-19 are the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO).