

Dear member of the Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church community:

On Sunday, March 15, the Congregational Council met to discuss our response to the current public health crisis. We take seriously our responsibility to the well-being, health, safety and welcome of all people who may walk through our doors to engage in worship, study and prayer.

Because the pandemic in Ottawa is still escalating, we will suspend all regularly scheduled meetings, programs and worship services effective immediately until and including Sunday, March 29, 2020. On that day the Council will meet again to consider the public health situation, and take further action at that point if necessary.

From Sunday, March 15, until Sunday, March 29, inclusive, the mid-week Lenten book study, weekly lectionary bible study, Christian meditation group meetings and Sunday worship services will be cancelled.

During this two-week period, the Council will attempt to phone/email all members in our effort to reach out and 'check-in'. We look forward to sustaining our relationships and building connections even at this time of social distancing. Please don't hesitate to call the church office (613-224-1971) whose messages will be periodically checked and responded to. You may also call Pastor Martin at 613-862-1359 or any member of Council should you simply need a listening ear or feel lonely.

Should you have internet access, by Sunday, March 22, you will be able to watch a short, pre-recorded video from our sanctuary which will include a brief worship service.

It is important to remember that, during the period in which regular services at Faith are suspended, our financial obligations and expenses will continue unchanged. The ongoing generosity of our members will be critical in meeting these obligations. Those members who make their offerings through the Pre-Authorized Payment (PAR) program will not need to make any changes. However, members who are not PAR subscribers have several options for making their offerings:

- 1) subscribe to the PAR program (details on the program and blank application forms are available in the mail slots – lower right corner – in the cloakroom in the narthex; alternatively, the form can be downloaded from the church's website – go to [faithottawa.ca](http://faithottawa.ca) and click on the Donations tab at the top of the page);
- 2) single payment donations can be made by using the CanadaHelps.org link on the church's website (click on the "Donations" tab at the top of the homepage, and then click on the "Donate Now" icon);
- 3) Interac e-transfer to "[donations@faithottawa.ca](mailto:donations@faithottawa.ca)"; please include your full name, address, and envelope number (if you have one) in the message field; or
- 4) mail a cheque in an envelope addressed to: Financial Secretary, Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, 43 Meadowlands Drive West, Ottawa, Ontario K2G 2R5.

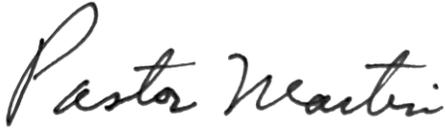
At a time when it is easier to think about one's own needs first, it is paramount that we also consider the plight and circumstances of the most vulnerable in our community – those with underlying health concerns, the elderly and the financially dependent and/or poor. The Christian community strives to

reach out and care for others with the resources we have even as we deal with various personal challenges surrounding the pandemic.

In advance, on behalf of Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, thank you for your prayers, support and attention.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Wirth". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B' and a distinct 'W'.

Brian Wirth,  
Chairperson, Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Martin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a distinct 'M'.

Rev. Martin Malina  
Pastor, Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church