

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

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November 24, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

I hope this letter finds you well, and that you are staying safe. I am addressing you on behalf of our congregation council at Holy Trinity. We have continued to experience a climb in COVID-19 cases in Ohio, including Stark County, which has been classified “red” along with other Ohio counties. Franklin County has been elevated to “purple.” Governor DeWine has issued a statewide curfew, in an effort to help curb the virus. Local school districts are either contemplating or have begun converting to online learning exclusively.

While we have been engaging in in-person worship for some time, and while we have practiced good safety measures, the current information raises significant concern for our worshipping and learning fellowship at Holy Trinity. Many, if not most, of the ELCA congregations in the Canton-Massillon-Alliance areas are suspending in-person worship. At the beginning of the pandemic in March, the leaders at Holy Trinity, including myself, said that our most important concern was the safety of our members, friends, and potential guests.

With all of this in mind, the congregation council has decided to suspend in-person worship, any and all Sunday school classes, and other gatherings at our congregational location until further notice. This will be effective, beginning on Sunday, November 29, the First Sunday in Advent. We are confident that the members of Holy Trinity will understand and support this decision, in the interest of one another’s safety and well-being. We will continue to provide worship virtually; and, a link and necessary information will be emailed each week. Other events will be emailed, as well, during the Advent season. We will continue to monitor the situation, along with recommendations from the governor’s office and health care professionals, as we determine appropriate actions in the future.

Please continue to respect the safety of one another and practice sound safety measures. Thank you.

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Mark A. Williams