

March 19, 2020

After much prayer and consideration, our School Board has decided to suspend classes at Bethlehem Lutheran Preschool at the close of the school day on **March 20** until **Monday, May 4th**. During this unprecedented national health crisis, we are all having to adjust on the fly – after electing last week to keep our school open, we’ve found ourselves facing new challenges: low student participation and worries/questions about April’s upcoming tuition.

- Our school parents have been faced with making difficult decisions for their family. We sincerely are not questioning the motives or actions of any of our families, but we feel we need to let you know the facts. Less than ½ of our students are currently attending school. This is happening because . . .
 - Some children have been ill and their parents have followed our policy and kept their children home;
 - Some families have older siblings home from public school and it is easier to stay home; and
 - Some parents are consciously attempting to help “flatten the curve” by staying home.
- With April tuition quickly approaching we are motivated to suspend classes now because . . .
 - Some of our families will be hurting financially due to layoffs, reduced hours, etc.;
 - Some families will justifiably balk at paying tuition when they are keeping their children home.

Please be assured that we have been humbly making these decisions knowing that we control none of the many variables. Our top priority has been the care of our students and our staff.

We are also seeking to be fair to our staff during this time and make sure we take care of them. Their wages are tuition-driven, which means we will be scrambling to figure out how to best provide for them. If you are willing to donate to assist our teachers and aides, that would be greatly appreciated. In addition, our Board will be discussing and making decisions regarding lost class time, etc. when this crisis is finally resolved.

FROM PASTOR ADAMS:

The Lord be with you! The very night He was betrayed and arrested Jesus told His disciples, *"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."* *John 14:27* Christ Jesus knew what was coming His way. He knew that Peter would deny Him, that He would be beaten, mocked and unjustly condemned. Jesus knew He was heading to death on the cross. But He also knew the END of His story was resurrection and restoration. He gave His peace to His friends with the promise that He knew the end of **their** story, which looks remarkably like their Master’s: Resurrection and restoration. I don’t know what the next few days hold for any of us . . . I am praying for God to be merciful to you and your family and to our whole nation. I am praying that in the midst of this crisis you will find peace in the knowledge that there is NOTHING in all creation that can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus. We will have sermons and services posted regularly to our web site. If you need pastoral care please call me: 541-567-6811.