

Resources for Small Congregations for 15 days of Social Distancing

On March 16, the President of the United States recommended that for the next 15 days – basically, until the end of March – people in the U.S. refrain from groups of more than 10.

How to keep hearing the Word of God during a time when church services and Bible classes may not be held? Some congregations may be in a position to provide online materials for their members. This may prove a challenge for other churches.

In any case, there are many resources online. Here are a few, with handy links:

Worship:

- Sermons from Daily Chapel Services at LCMS International Center
<https://www.kfuo.org/category/daily-chapel/>
- Daily Chapel Services from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne
<https://www.ctsfw.edu/daily-chapel/> Also see the seminary's Facebook page.
- Worship Anew (formerly Worship for Shut-Ins): short (30 minute) televised service
<https://worshipanew.org/programs>

Preparing for Each Sunday:

- Studies of the Propers for each Sunday – Three-Year Lectionary
<https://issuesetc.org/tag/3-year-lectionary/>
- Studies of the Propers for each Sunday – One-Year Lectionary
<https://issuesetc.org/tag/1-year-lectionary/>

Bible Study:

- Quarter-hour daily audio Bible study
<https://thewordendures.org/>
- Two Adult Bible Studies – audio sessions about one hour each
<http://www.cidlcms.org/coursecompanionaudio.html>

Prayers when sending in offering:

We give Thee but Thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee.
May we Thy bounties thus as stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, to Thee our firstfruits give (LSB 781:1, 2)

Lord of glory, You have bought us with Your life.blood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones that tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust you boldly, hope to stay our souls on You;
But, oh, best of all Your graces, with Your love our love renew (LSB 851:4).

O Lord, You were rich but on account of me You became poor, and now by Your poverty You have made me rich. Right now, in the midst of my own needs, give me an abundance of joy in You and Your love. Cause it to overflow in singleness of heart. Since You have cared for me in Creation and Redemption, now give me the gift of being eager to share in the work of your church. Use this offering, I pray, to extend compassion to the needy and to bring the Good News of salvation to poor sinners like me. In Your Name, O Christ, I pray. (Based on 2 Corinthians 8:1-9)

O Lord, You are good and Your steadfast love endures forever. Lead me to serve You with gladness and come before You with singing. For You, Lord, are God. You have made us, and we are Yours. In the crucified and risen Christ, You have made me and all Your church to be Your people, the sheep of Your pasture. Make this offering a “joyful noise” to You, as I give You thanks and bless Your Name. Lead me to keep serving You with the gladness that only You can give, in Jesus’ Name. (Based on Psalm 100)

Our Father, Who art in heaven, Thy kingdom come . . . give us first Your Word, so that the Gospel may be preached properly throughout the world. Second, may the Gospel be received in faith and work and live in us, so that through the Word and the Holy Spirit’s power, Your kingdom may triumph among us. And we pray that the devil’s kingdom be put down, so that he may have no right or power over us, until at last his power may be utterly destroyed. So sin, death, and hell shall be exterminated. Then we may live forever in perfect righteousness and blessedness (*Large Catechism* III 54). Make use of this offering, I pray. Thy kingdom come. Amen.