

March 12, 2020

"Fear Not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10

Blessings all,

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10

As you are likely aware, on Tuesday, February 25th, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) gave a press conference updating the country on the current status of the coronavirus (COVID-19), and what steps should be taken moving forward. We wanted to share with you some of the steps our school is taking to prevent the spread of illness across our campus, and plan for the possible spread of the coronavirus in our community.

As the CDC emphasized, there is **NOT** currently a coronavirus pandemic in the United States. A pandemic occurs when a disease is spreading from a variety of sources across a large region, and the number of cases across the US is still small. However, given how quickly the global situation is evolving, Hephatha Lutheran is monitoring new developments and will continue to reevaluate our steps and actions daily.

In the meantime, the most effective way to stay healthy and minimize the spread of infectious disease is to follow basic health practices:

- Enforce great hygiene, such as washing hands thoroughly and covering up coughs/sneezes
- Ask the faculty, staff, and students who are feeling ill to stay home until they recover
- In the coming days, more hand sanitizing stations will be placed around the campus

Our campus community is prepared to alter our procedures and planning should the situation change, including online learning days/distance learning days. We are also thinking ahead regarding the impact of athletics, upcoming outdoor education trips, and other class field trips. We will communicate any changes when the time is appropriate. An initial first draft of a plan to continue education in light of a coronavirus outbreak is attached to this email. This plan is a draft because we will continue to make changes as the local and national health organizations advise. Any changes will be communicated to parents. This is only a plan IN CASE of a virus outbreak, which there is NOT one now in our area.

It is paramount to remember that handling the spread of a serious contagion like the coronavirus is primarily a task for public health agencies. Any directives from the World Health Organization, CDC, or local government organizations will be followed.

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence. Psalm 91:1-3

Eric Deyke



Principal
Hephatha Lutheran Church and School