

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,

Christ's grace and peace to each of you throughout this season of Lent.

On February 28, 2020, Hephatha Lutheran communicated information related to the coronavirus (COVID-19). We have continued to monitor updates related to COVID-19, working with partner agencies in the process. Specifically, Hephatha is, and will remain, in direct communication with the Orange County Department of Health and the Orange County Department of Education, among other organizations. Additionally, we have been tracking the decisions schools and universities have been making in response to COVID-19. Through media outlets, I am sure you have seen several of our local universities move to an online class setting, while also keeping their campus open.

The choices made by these universities are not the result of recommendations made by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the California Department of Public Health, or other expert agencies; however we are taking note of these decisions and ensuring that we are prepared should it be necessary to temporarily suspend face-to-face classes. Attached you can find a brief overview of our protocol should we go fully online, specifically step 3 of the plan.

Hephatha has implemented additional layers to campus health and wellness, including additional hand sanitizer dispensers, disinfectant wipes and sanitizer in each classroom, and deep cleaning of classrooms on a regular basis. Furthermore, antibacterial soap has been added every soap dispenser on campus.

Hephatha will continue to follow guidance from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) for public gatherings and community events. At this time, there are no recommendations from the CDPH for canceling small gathering extracurricular activities, or closing schools in our area. We will continue to diligently monitor these recommendations.

Classrooms have had child-friendly posters put up that remind our students the following prevention strategies, which are recommended by the CDC.

- Clean your hands often
- Avoid close contact
- Stay home when you are sick
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Wear a facemask if you are sick
- CLEAN AND DISINFECT

Below are additional resources to help provide accurate tracking information, helpful tips, and other pertinent information to the current situation.

Hephatha Lutheran understands student and parent concerns, as well as the anxiety this situation may cause for students and families. We will continue to work closely with expert partner agencies and will provide further information as this situation evolves. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the administration office.

WHO

CDC

California Department of Health

OC Health Care Agency

The following page, age, sex, existing conditions of COVID-19 cases and deaths appears to highlight those most at risk due to COVID-19.

Eric Deyke



Principal

Hephatha Lutheran Church and School