



新加坡基督教信义会
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Dear beloved in the Lord,
PASTORAL LETTER TO ALL LUTHERAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS

Peace be with you.

In response to the increasing number of local transmissions without clear links to existing cases or clusters, our government calls for additional measures to help put a stop to this spread.

The measures include the limiting of group gatherings to not more than 10, maintaining at least a 1 meter distance from others in all places and at all time as well as the suspension of all Worship Services. The Church and the government work together to keep body and spirit alive and healthy. Quoting Luther's words during the plague in Wittenberg (1527), we call upon all to apply not only the letter of the call but the spirit of it thereof :

"I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence ... if my neighbor needs me, however, I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely as stated above. See this is such a God fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God. (Luther's Works, Vol.43, pg. 142)

Just before this escalated measures were announced, all the pastors endorsed the "Theological and Liturgical Principles to Guide LCS Congregations During Covid-19". In it the Nature of the Holy Communion and how we can celebrate it safe during Covid-19 was spelled out. In response to temporary suspends all Worship Services, the question of Holy Communion was raised.

I am much encouraged that many of you believe that Holy Communion is important and desire to receive it. After lengthy discussion, we moved to suspend Holy Communion until the end of April or until the relaxation of the Covid-19 precautionary measures. We call upon all to take this as a fast from the Holy Communion and pray with the rest of God's people that He will hear our prayers, forgive our sins and heal our lands. (cf. 2 Chr. 7:14). I pray that we will all look forward with yearnings to the time that we can come together to worship as a church and receives from the Lord forgiveness through His blood and nourishment through His Body with one another.

May the Almighty God who creates the heavens and the earth be with you and grant you peace and health. Shalom!

Yours in Christ's Service,

Bishop Terry Kee