

July 16, 2020

Dear Community Groups who have called Prince of Peace Home,

It's been five months since we have closed our building because of the coronavirus. Please know that it was a very difficult decision for our leadership to choose to close, especially because we know that thirty community and support groups use our building each and every month to do important lifegiving work; work which is essential to our mission as well. We are thankful for the gifts of creativity, technology, and love that have enabled you each to innovate ways for your group to continue to serve its mission during this time.

Our building remains open for our feeding ministries only. The congregation has yet to return to the building for worship and we do not as yet have plans to do so; we continue to worship at home. Prior to the pandemic we would assist about thirty people a month with supplemental food. Now, we are providing food for over 140 people a WEEK. This demand, as well as proper safety protocols, has required us to use our largest room, Luther Hall, as the primary staging area for us to fulfill this need. Our second largest room, "The Triple Classroom," (Heart, Anchor, Cross classrooms) has now become the preparation area for the Student Feeding Program which provides meals for school age children who receive free or reduced meals at school. The remaining rooms in our building that had been used for meetings could only accommodate four or five people properly physically distanced from one another.

With this reality, the precautions established by health authorities of each person remaining masked and at least six foot from one another for limited periods of time, and the clear fact that the Rate of Transmission continues to fluctuate **the Congregation Council of Prince of Peace has made the difficult, yet love driven, decision to keep the building closed to all community and support groups at least until the end of 2020**, whereupon they will reassess the situation.

In the meantime, please know that the church grounds are still available for your group to meet if you so choose.

For those who have continued to make contributions to the church we are most thankful and are ever grateful for your generosity.

We will continue to keep you informed.

Serving the Community with you,

The Rev. Brett W. Ballenger
Pastor to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Marlton, New Jersey