

Dear friends in Christ,

Like you, we are watching the reports of the spreading coronavirus outbreak. We all feel a sense of anxiety over the unknowns and the risks to the health of everyone in our community. This certainly causes us to be ever mindful of our responsibility to take whatever steps we can to safeguard the people in our midst.

As a worshipping community, where significant numbers of people gather, we want to take every precaution at St. Paul's to prevent the spread of this virus. We will continue to monitor the situation, following the guidance of health agencies and experts about any potential changes to our practices. While there are still many unknowns, we would like to encourage everyone involved in our ministry of hospitality to follow these practical guidelines:

v **If you are sick or not feeling well, please do not prepare food to share and please stay home.** Your team, and certainly God, will understand if you miss church or preparing food, especially in an attempt to protect others. We will look forward to having you back once your health is fully restored.

v **Please WASH your hands.** Thoroughly wash your hands before food preparation off-site and at SPEC. This is the best way to stop the spread of this virus. Using warm water, scrub your hands with soap for about 20 seconds. (Consider saying the Lord's Prayer while you are washing). We will have additional bottles of hand sanitizer available in both kitchens for you to use frequently.

v **Use plastic gloves when plating food and collecting dishes.** If you collect plates from tables, please wash your hands thoroughly before touching any food or service items. Please be cautious of "cross-contamination". Change your gloves often. Plastic gloves will be available in both kitchens.

v **Avoid touching your face, mouth or hair.**

v **Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.** Please take the time to use Clorox Wipes (available under the front kitchen sink) to wipe down coffee pots, tables and countertops.

v **Clean and sanitize pitchers used for water, tea, etc.** by putting them through the dishwasher

v **If you use the cart for collecting plates, please be sure you wipe it down,** as well as the tubs, with Clorox Wipes

We are committed to being caring, compassionate ministers of hospitality, extending a warm welcome to everyone who attends St. Paul's. At the same time, the safety and health of all is of highest concern, so we must exercise caution and responsibility as we face this new reality.

May we continue to pray for those who have contracted the virus, for any who are vulnerable and for all who feel uncertain or in danger. May we be made aware of our interdependence on each other and the strength that comes from being one body in Christ.

Yours in Christ- Teresa Singer