

## COVID-19 (coronavirus) Information

Because the situation regarding COVID-19 (coronavirus) is rapidly evolving, it is vital for congregational leaders to be aware of the facts and prepared to help their congregations cope with whatever develops.

Here are some resources for your consideration:

1. A “Congregational Planning Checklist for a Pandemic” is from Lutheran Disaster Response and is a supplement for congregations on how to plan for the impact of a pandemic in your church. A pandemic is something many of us have not experienced. The goal at Lutheran Disaster Response is not to prepare you completely for a pandemic outbreak, but to give you a handle on what might occur and how to keep your congregation running if such a disaster occurs. It is available at <https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/PandemicChecklist.pdf>.
2. “Worship in the Times of Public Health Concerns” is from the ELCA and addresses some concerns for public worship, specifically “Passing of the Peace” and Holy Communion.” It is available at [https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Worship\\_in\\_Times\\_of\\_Public\\_Health\\_Concerns.pdf](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Worship_in_Times_of_Public_Health_Concerns.pdf).
3. A letter written by Christa Compton, a pastor in the New Jersey Synod, to members of her congregation regarding the Coronavirus). You have permission to use this letter with your own congregation if you wish. Download the letter at <http://nepasynod.org/documents/covid-19-pastoral-letter.docx>.
4. PAVOAD (Pennsylvania Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) would like to share some information on COVID-19, the coronavirus. Lutheran Disaster Response – Eastern PA is a member and on the Board of PAVOAD. Planning ahead is always advisable and this is a great time to begin considering the systems and preparations your organization has in place. Therefore, we recommend that you:
  - a. Advise your staff and clients and members to review their family emergency plans. For more information go to [https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/FamEmePlan\\_2012.pdf](https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/FamEmePlan_2012.pdf).
  - b. Create plans to enable your staff to work remotely if that becomes a necessity.
  - c. Remind your community and networks that rumor control and regular situational awareness are essential. Please get your information from trusted sources like the PA Department of Health and/or the CDC. (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/factsheets.html>).