*Then the king will answer them,*
*“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these*
*who are members of my family, you did it to me.”*
*~ Matthew 25:40 ~*

March 19, 2020

Dear Trinity Family,

As each day brings new developments related to the coronavirus pandemic, Trinity seeks to respond with the Good News of God’s enduring love for us in Christ, and to identify tangible ways that we might show that love to our neighbors.  To that end, I have signed our church up to participate in a coordinated effort between the borough and area congregations to meet acute needs as they arise.  This expands our involvement beyond the borough’s emergency response plan, which I mentioned in my previous correspondence.

Please contact the church office if you feel led to take part in any of these initiatives:

* As Karl Barth is rumored to have said, “to clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world.”  Even if we are sheltering at home, we can take part in the critical work of praying for our neighbors, for healthcare workers, for immunologists testing treatments and those volunteering as test subjects, for public officials, for those losing their jobs, for those who are or might be infected by COVID-19, for those who have lost loved ones to the disease, here and abroad.
* The U.S. Treasury Secretary has warned that the unemployment rate could exceed that of the Great Depression.  Anticipating increased need for basic resources, churches are being asked to ready a team of folks willing to make and deliver meals (this is the component of the borough’s response plan to which we already have committed).  Beyond that, we expect that some folks in higher-risk demographics (the elderly and those with complicating health factors) may not be able to get to the grocery store and run basic errands.  A team of drivers would also help with these tasks.
* Those who have obtained child abuse clearances either through work or for our Sunday School program are invited to volunteer to provide childcare for healthcare workers.  This would be probably only be required if demand on the healthcare system becomes severe.

We do not yet know the extent to which #s 2 and 3 will be necessary, but we want to be prepared.  If you wish to volunteer, call or email the church office and Christie will include your name and contact information in a volunteer database.  Pastor Arlyn has offered to be the point of contact for our church.  If he receives a prayer request, he will communicate it to the prayer team (via Bert Kolva, who is leading that effort).  If he receives a request for delivering food or providing childcare, he will work through the list of drivers or babysitters until he is able to make the right connections.

Thank you for continuing to be responsive to the leading of God’s Spirit.  Although we do not know where the road ahead leads, we know the One who leads us along it.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Aaron