

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA
CAPE CHURCH
EVANGELIES-LUTHERSE KERK IN SUIDER-AFRIKA
KAAPSE KERK
EVANGELISH-LUTHERISCHE KIRCHE IM SÜDLICHEN AFRIKA
KAPKIRCHE

P.O. Box 15528 Vlaeberg, 8018 | email: bishop@elcsacape.co.za
Bishop: Tel: 021 422 0592 | Cell: 084 514 4946 | Fax: 086 760 9504



23 March 2020

To the Congregations
The Church Committees
Pastors

Announcement regarding lockdown due to Covid-19

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

We are all aware of the announcement that President Cyril Ramaphosa made this evening. He declared a total lockdown from midnight on 26.03.2020 until 16.04.2020.

In my view, this is the only reasonable and possible response to slow down the spread of Covid-19, and thereby protect the people of South Africa. As responsible and caring citizens let us adhere to these restrictions. Please access information from official sources (e.g. <https://sacoronavirus.co.za/>) when you are uncertain about what all this means to us here and now.

As a direct result of this directive from our President, **I am hereby notifying you that no church services or congregational gatherings may take place during this period.** I am still awaiting clarity on what the lockdown regulations are for conducting funerals.

As previously discussed, I implore you to make use of the different virtual avenues (e.g. through social media and other electronic platforms) to reach out and worship together despite of being physically separated. May this be a time where we support each other even more. Let us not forget that brothers and sisters are only a phone call or the click of a button away. United in prayer let us strengthen one another to live life in servanthood to the glory of God our Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

God is present with us even as we walk through this valley. These are the comforting words of Psalm 23, a psalm that is a guide in many situations. It is a scripture that gives me comfort in this situation. It is a Psalm that remains relevant and gets new meaning due to the pressing context. *"He leads me" (v2,3) "I will fear no evil, for you are with me." (v4)*

Although I may not be able to visit you during this time, please know that I am available via email and telephonically.

Should specific situation questions arise please do not hesitate to contact me.

We remain united through prayer and in thought.

Kind regards,

Bishop Gilbert Filter and the members of Church Council