



Dear members and friends of Westside Evangelical Lutheran Church,

I write to you in a time of challenge, fear, and uncertainty. Our lives have been turned upside down by the events of the last number of days and weeks. A closure of this magnitude has never occurred in the history of Westside Evangelical Lutheran Church or any other church in this area.

It is unknown how long this period of closure will last. It could be several weeks or several months. COVID-19 will have a long-lasting and far-reaching effect on the economy. All churches will feel this impact and we are no exception. With a sustained closure, some local churches may never recover. Unlike some sectors of the business community, as a registered charity we cannot expect to be rescued by a government bailout.

As ministry will continue the best way possible, I cannot stress enough how important it will be to continue to make our offerings. We will someday open again, and when we do, we must ensure that Westside Evangelical Lutheran Church is prepared and ready to resume normal operations. Currently, there are numerous ways to give. A few options are outlined below:

**1. Sign up for Pre-Authorized Withdrawal (PAR)**

- a. Registration forms are available through the church office and our Financial Secretary, Hugh Knowles. Please either phone the church office at 705-735-3433 or email to [westsideoffice@bellnet.ca](mailto:westsideoffice@bellnet.ca) if you would like a registration form. For PAR the amount committed to is debited directly from your account on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

**2. Interac e-Transfer using online banking**

- a. If you use online banking, log into your account. Detailed instructions on how to send an e-transfer can be found on Interac's website:  
<https://www.interac.ca/en/consumers/products/interac-e-transfer/>

Please check with your financial institution as they may charge a fee depending on what banking package you have.

- b. Add Westside Evangelical Lutheran Church as a recipient using the email address that we have set up for this purpose: [westsideofferings@gmail.com](mailto:westsideofferings@gmail.com).
- c. Enter the desired amount. In the Message section indicate if the offering is to be totally allocated to General Offerings or if it is to be allocated for different purposes e.g. CLWR, Pastor's Discretionary Fund, etc and state the amount for each. Click send. The Church has set up AutoDeposit for Etransfers with BMO so a security question will not be required. You will receive a confirmation email from your financial institution immediately. Please retain the email for your record purposes to validate to your quarterly offering statement. An email will also be sent to the [westsideofferings@gmail.com](mailto:westsideofferings@gmail.com) to confirm the transaction. Our Financial Secretary will use these emails to input your offering into your personal quarterly and annual offering summary. The church's bank account will receive the deposit immediately. Please note that your name may appear on the church's bank statement alongside the transaction.

- d. If you would prefer to use the ELCIC National Office's Interac E-Transfer at this time these can be transferred to [payments@elcic.ca](mailto:payments@elcic.ca). You will need to send a follow up email to [payments@elcic.ca](mailto:payments@elcic.ca) with our congregations name and address that the money should be forwarded to and an answer to the security question (if required). The National Office will then forward any money received to our congregation. National Office will assume all processing costs and pass on 100% of money received at this time to our congregation.

The National Office will issue a charitable donation tax receipt (i.e. it will not be recorded on your offering summary from Westside Evangelical Lutheran Church).

### **3. Mail envelopes to the church**

- a. If Canada Post is running, you can mail envelopes directly to the church office.  
Mailing address: 510 Ferndale Drive North, Barrie, Ontario, L4N 0S1.  
We will arrange for these to be processed under dual custody.  
Please do not send cash.

### **4. Secure OnLine Credit Card option through ELCIC National Office**

- a. To use this option at <https://secure.elcic.ca/>
  - i. Select the ELCIC General Fund
  - ii. In the "Personal Message", include Westside Evangelical Lutheran Church's name and address (510 Ferndale Drive North, Barrie, Ontario, L4N 0S1).

The National Office will assume all processing costs and pass on 100% of money received at this time to our congregation. The National Office will also issue the charitable donation tax receipt (i.e. it will not be recorded on your offering summary from Westside Evangelical Lutheran Church).

If you need assistance with these options or have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to reach out to the church office at Ph. 705-735-3433 or [westsideoffice@bellnet.ca](mailto:westsideoffice@bellnet.ca).

The days, weeks, and months ahead will be a challenging time for us, but I know when we pray, work, and give in GOD's name, we can make it through the darkness.

*For I am the LORD your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you,  
Do not fear; I will help you. ~Isaiah 41:13*

Yours in Christ,  
Roger Denize,  
Treasurer,  
Westside Evangelical Lutheran Church