



# GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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**MAY 08, 2020**

**TO: GSLC MEMBERS**  
**FROM: GSLC COUNCIL**  
**REGARDING: CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

Constitutionally, our congregation should be meeting this spring to approve a budget for the next fiscal year (July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021). That meeting was originally scheduled for Sunday, May 3. Because of our suspension of worship services and activities due to the coronavirus COVID-19, however, it was necessary to cancel that meeting. That now puts the congregation in a complicated position.

If we do not meet by the end of spring, we will not have an operating budget as of July 1. We do still hope to begin in-person services and activities June 1, but at this time, that remains uncertain. There are also constitutional requirements for announcements of a meeting in the weeks prior to it. Additionally, even if we reopen in June, we anticipate a slow return of our members and that social distancing will be challenging. It is of utmost importance that we protect and respect the health of our members, especially those in at-risk groups.

Besides the difficulties of scheduling and gathering for a meeting, the Council also feels that it would be imprudent to propose a budget while the economy is so unstable. So far, the financial support of our members has been very generous and timely. We sincerely appreciate that commitment and hope that it will continue. It will take several months, however, to gather enough data to understand what financial effects the existing economic issues will produce for us.

Therefore, the Council has voted to continue using this year's budget until we are able to hold an in-person meeting of the congregation. To take that action, the Council has invoked bylaw C12.05.01 of our constitution, which addresses emergencies and gives the Council authority to protect the property and business of the congregation in an emergency situation. The exact wording of this bylaw can be found on our website.

**COUNCIL ACTION:** **The congregation of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Woodstock, GA, being unable to meet in a timely manner as stated in the constitution of the congregation, will continue to function with the current budget for fiscal year 2019—2020, until such time as the congregation is able to gather for an in-person meeting.**

The Council is currently developing a plan for resuming in-person worship services and activities that will provide for the safety of our members. This plan will be based on the recommendations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Southeastern Synod and the CDC, as well as local, state and federal health and government leaders. Please continue to hold our congregation, our community and our world in your prayers as we continue to navigate the new and complicated effects of the global pandemic. Peace be with you.