



With the rising concerns around the spread of COVID-19, Wartburg Theological Seminary is putting into place temporary policies effective Saturday, March 14th through Monday, April 13th, to help us steward our shared life together. To our knowledge, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 within our community. We intend to do what we can to preserve health, minimize the spread of the virus, and decrease anxiety where possible. The COVID-19 situation has been unfolding very rapidly and is being monitored closely. We have plans to communicate the possible rescinding or extending of these policies by the beginning of Holy Week. *Care for one another during this time is our top priority!*

**Beginning Saturday, March 14, 2020:**

1. All courses will move exclusively to online delivery through distance education through April 13th.
2. The Wartburg Campus will NOT close but will maintain regular working hours with modified operations.
  - a. Student on-campus housing remains open but access to guest housing will be limited.
  - b. Food service will be closed.
  - c. The library will be open to faculty, staff, and students only.
  - d. Planned work and course related meetings are encouraged to convene via ZOOM.
  - e. Work related travel should be minimized and done in consultation with supervisor.
  - f. Maintenance and custodial staff are following best practices for cleaning and disinfecting during this time.
3. We will continue to deliberate how we will move forward as a worship-centered community. Further communication is forthcoming.
4. All campus events, including Considering Your Call Weekend and the Center for Global Theologies' soup suppers previously scheduled through April 13th have been cancelled, as well as the Reformation and Reunion event scheduled the week after Easter. The Faith and Science conference will be delivered through video conferencing only.
5. Students at a distance—distributed, collaborative, and in the TEEM program—as well as students on internship, in CPE, and in fieldwork are expected to follow the policies set forth by the organizations and synods where they are serving.
6. Please practice care and consideration for yourself and others. If you are symptomatic, stay home. If you have questions or need assistance, ask for help. Consult with medical staff if symptoms persist. Be

conscientious about how you interact with others in the workplace. In addition to your state's health department website, we encourage you to access the following resources:

[ELCA Public Health](#)

[Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) – Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(Covid 19\)](#)

We are continuing to monitor the situation carefully and will do our best to keep you updated as things change.

Please join me in praying for all who are ill, for the most vulnerable, for healthcare workers, public health officials, for local, regional, state, national and international policy makers, and all who are fearful about this virus. This is a complex matter and we rely on both the wisdom of experts, resources shared, and, most of all, on our faith in God who is rich in mercy.

Prayers,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristine M. Stache".

Dr. Kristine Stache  
Interim President, Wartburg Theological Seminary