

*President*  
Gene R. Pfeifer, Ph.D.

November 19, 2020

Dear Bethany Lutheran College Community,

Governor Walz issued Executive Order 20-99 (effective until 12/19/20) last evening. This morning, members of the College Administration met in order to determine how this Order affects operations at Bethany Lutheran College. The group sought additional guidance about the Order from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the Minnesota Office of Higher Education.

As a result of the Governor's Order, MDH has requested all Minnesota college campuses to move to Level 4 mitigation at this time. To be clear, this is not because of an outbreak on our campus, but due to the spread of the virus in our communities, region, and State.

**The following measures are now being implemented at Bethany Lutheran College.**

**Classes after Thanksgiving:**

- **All classes will be conducted online, for the remainder of the semester, beginning on Monday, November 30, with the exception of lab science courses and nursing labs/courses which will continue to meet in person until December 18.**
- Meyer Hall and the Nursing Station in Honsey Hall will remain open for classroom instruction until the end of the first semester.
- Students are encouraged to contact their professors with any questions.

**Memorial Library:**

Memorial Library will be closed for the remainder of the semester beginning November 30. We will continue to monitor ways to serve students in an online setting, similar to last Spring Semester. Curbside delivery will be available for patrons from 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. Contact [library@blc.edu](mailto:library@blc.edu) for more information.

**Residence Halls:**

- Residence halls will remain open to residential students for the duration of the Fall Semester.
- The practice of no campus visitation hours will continue. Students may only enter the hall in which they reside.
- Residential students are welcome to stay on campus over the Thanksgiving Break if they do not feel safe to travel.
- Residential students who leave the campus for the Thanksgiving Break are strongly encouraged (per MDH guidelines) to stay home for the remainder of the semester and complete their coursework online.

- If you are choosing to not return to campus housing for the rest of the fall semester, and would like to take advantage of a board (meal plan) credit toward the next semester, **you must indicate your intention by completing the [Staying Off-Campus after Thanksgiving Break form](#). You must indicate your intention not to return prior to the deadline of 1 p.m. on Wednesday, NOVEMBER 25, 2020.** Any intentions indicated after that time will not be considered for a Spring 2021 board (meal plan) credit.
- No refunds or credit will be given for “room” as the residence halls remain open.
- The “board” credit is only available to students returning for the Spring Semester and will be in the form of a credit on your Spring 2021 bill.

### **Dining Center:**

The Dining Center will continue to operate on a regular schedule, although meal service times may be adjusted.

### **COVID Testing:**

Students who travel over Thanksgiving Break (and return to campus after the Break) are strongly encouraged to be tested for COVID 5-7 days after returning (per MDH guidelines). Local testing site information may be [found here](#).

### **Fine Arts Activities:**

- Theater Physics performances will be held on Thursday (11/19) and Friday (11/20) with limited audiences. There will be no performances on Saturday (11/21) or Sunday (11/22). Show times for these performances are 7 and 9 p.m. each evening.
- All other fine arts events and activities are cancelled for the remainder of the Fall Semester.

### **Athletics:**

- Upon the recommendation of MDH, all athletic activities are on pause for the next four weeks.
- We fully intend to resume all varsity athletic programs after the four-week pause, and look forward to basketball and track and field resuming their practices and competitions in January 2021.

### **Campus Fitness and Weight Rooms:**

These facilities are closed until further notice.

### **On-Campus Social Gatherings and Activities:**

All on-campus social gatherings are cancelled for the remainder of the semester. However, structured classroom activities are allowed.

**Admissions Office:**

The Admissions Office will remain open for visits by immediate family groups. No large group visits will be conducted until further notice.

**December Graduation:**

The graduation ceremonies scheduled for December 11 and 12 are no longer able to be held in person. Additional information will be forthcoming.

**Finally, it is the intention of Bethany Lutheran College to re-open the campus to in-person classes using our Hy-Flex model (same format as we used for the first semester) on Monday, January 11, 2021. We look forward to gathering together again in the New Year!**

Sincerely, in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gene R. Pfeifer". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Gene R. Pfeifer, Ph.D.  
President  
Bethany Lutheran College