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March 22, 2020

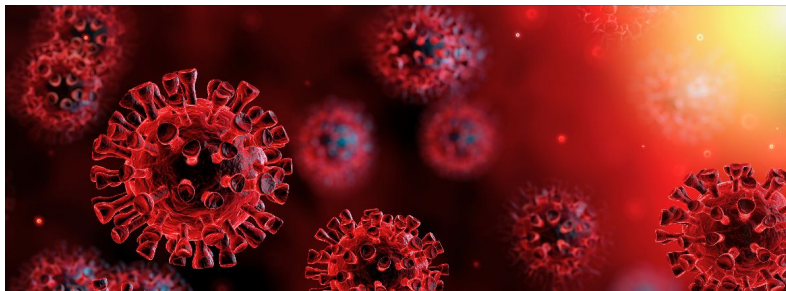


# Lake Union HERALD

THIS WEEK

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Lake Union President offers practical steps for forging ahead in these tumultuous times; Illinois President issues response to stay-at-home order; Indiana Conference closes for next two weeks, schools shut doors until May; Wisconsin President releases video; NPR features former Michigan member; #DearCoronavirus video: 'God is still in control'



## ***Is there any word from the Lord?***

### Lake Union President's Editorial

Massive layoffs, skyrocketing unemployment, and a roller-coaster stock market would be enough to upset the stomach of even the experienced thrill-seeker. But add a deadly virus to the mix and suddenly it seems like someone hit the fast-forward button on time left for this old world of ours. Zedekiah asked Jeremiah when facing impending doom, "*Is there any word from the Lord.*" (Jer 37:17)

Yes, there is. God is Love. Nothing has changed. You and I are still the apple of His eye and we can still put our confidence, hope, and trust in Him. In short, God cares for you. Please allow me to suggest some practical steps for forging ahead in difficult times. [READ MORE](#)

## Lake Union office remains closed

The building was [closed last week](#) for sanitizing and will remain closed March 23-26. This was necessary after participants in the Lake Union Prayer Conference were notified that an attendee had exhibited flu-like symptoms, and was tested for the coronavirus. The results of that test was released last Thursday and it was negative.

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## Illinois president issues statement in response to governor's stay-at-home order

Illinois Conference President, Ron Aguilera wrote on Friday:

"Today, Friday afternoon, March 20th, the Governor of Illinois issued a "stay at home" order. This order mandates all residents of Illinois stay home until at least April 7th. The governor also stated residents can still go to the grocery stores, put gas in their cars, take walks outside, and make pharmacy runs, and go to medical offices, but are otherwise are to stay home.

Earlier this week, Illinois Conference administration took steps to follow the guidelines set out by the Center of Disease and Prevention advising no gatherings of 10 people or more be held. Today, the announcement by the Governor of our state takes this to an even greater level.

**Regarding the Illinois Conference, and as stated in the last update, all churches, schools, and the Conference office, will remain closed until further notice.**

This is a difficult time, but I want to challenge us to be of good courage, and to not be afraid. Psalm 56:3, 4, says, "When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise— in God, I trust and am not afraid." I have full confidence in our God, and will continue to pray you remain of good courage and that your faith remain strong!

May the Lord bless you and keep you. Let's continue to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, and let's continue to be faithful to the One who has been, and will continue to be, faithful to us."

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## Indiana schools ordered closed until May 1

Statement issued last Friday by Interim Indiana Superintendents, Tom and Renee Coffee:

"[Indiana] Governor Holcomb issued an executive order on March 19 stating that all schools must close until at least May 1. Our schools will accept government mandates unless they conflict with scripture. Our head teachers and academy principal met via zoom today to discuss the latest update and

Head teachers will work with their school boards to inform them of the plans they propose to use over the next several weeks. All our elementary schools will begin next week to deliver materials and/or internet learning methods.

The Indiana Office of Education has informed us that the spring state testing will be waived this year. Our Lake Union Superintendent, Linda Fuchs, is planning a zoom meeting with all union superintendents for March 25. We are all working together to assist in this special situation."

### **Indiana Conference office closed to public**

The office is closed to the public, except for essential business; employees may work from home, or work reduced in-office hours, at their discretion.

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### **Lake Region brings together conference via online service**

"We need to look for the opportunities these times present us with. I believe post-covid-19 we'll have a radically different society. . . a new normal, perhaps how we engage in mission and ministry. We are away from our church buildings. . . but our churches are still open because we are the church. The church building is closed. But the church is still open. What will you do to present the knowledge of our saving message of a soon-coming Savior to our communities?" -- R. Cliff Jones, Lake Region President. [WATCH VIDEO](#)

The Youth also held a virtual worship service. [WATCH VIDEO](#)

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### **Wisconsin President: "Now is not the time to shudder in fear."**

While the world is stressing over covid-19, Wisconsin pastors are creatively finding ways to connect with members and the community. [WATCH VIDEO](#)

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### **NPR features former Michigan member**

#### **Outbreak voices: A pastor on finding grace in solitude**

Lynn Bryson was [featured](#) yesterday on NPR. Bryson said, "There is a blessing, I believe, coming from this social distancing. We can spend more time individually in contemplation, quiet time. I'm already counting the blessing that I've had that I don't have to be always public or in the office, or I don't have to be out and about. I can actually spend more time, without any guilty conscience, quietly reflective."

*Related story:* You may recall Bryson's account in the [Oct. 2016 Herald](#), of

## #DearCoronavirus

### 'You haven't defeated us; God is in control'

Lives are disrupted, damaged or lost. Economies devastated; plans destroyed. The pandemic of 2020 will never be forgotten. But what if, in the midst of fear and anxiety, we stand united, around the world, with a message of hope. This video produced within 48 hours by the Inter-European Division (EUD) media center features 40 people representing 32 languages, including some from the NAD.

English - <https://vimeo.com/399225392>

Spanish - <https://vimeo.com/399210302>

Have a good evening!

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MARCH 2020



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