



March 31, 2020

Dear beloved LCMS congregations, schools, RSOs and co-workers:

The peace of the Lord be with you! **The matter that follows is urgent and deserves your immediate consideration.**

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the United States Congress has passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (the “CARES Act”), which was signed into law on March 27, 2020. The CARES Act is intended to provide economic relief to certain individuals, nonprofit organizations and businesses impacted by this outbreak.

One program under the CARES Act receiving quite a bit of attention is the Paycheck Protection Program (the “PPP”). Under the PPP, certain businesses, including nonprofit organizations, may be eligible to receive a potentially forgivable loan through the Small Business Administration. PPP loans may be helpful to nonprofit organizations (**including LCMS congregations, schools, and RSOs**) by providing money to those organizations to pay for certain qualifying expenses, such as payroll costs (including compensation), mortgage and rent payments, and utility costs.

SBA lenders will begin accepting PPP loan applications this Friday, April 3, 2020. **It is expected that demand for these loans will be high and that organizations interested in obtaining PPP loans should be prepared to act quickly before the funds allocated to PPP loans under the CARES Act run out.**

Given the speed with which the CARES Act was adopted, additional guidance may be forthcoming regarding PPP eligibility requirements and terms. Nevertheless, any organization interested in learning more about the PPP or applying for a PPP loan is encouraged to speak with an SBA lender to obtain additional information and begin the application process. A list of SBA lenders is available at [sba.gov](https://www.sba.gov).

Additional detail and information regarding the CARES Act and the PPP, including summary materials, FAQs and other resources prepared by Concordia Plan Services (CPS), may be found at CPS’ website: [concordiaplans.org](https://www.concordiaplans.org).

Please share this message with appropriate others.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President
Rev. Kevin D. Robson, Chief Mission Officer
Frank Simek, Chief Administrative Officer and Acting Chief Financial Officer

Over, please.

Useful links to additional information:

- [CPS Insider — Special Edition](#)
- [CARES Act Information](#)
- [PPP Summary](#)
- [U.S. Department of the Treasury – Assistance for Small Businesses](#)

This notice regarding the CARES Act and the PPP is for general information purposes only. This notice is not a detailed or complete summary or analysis of the CARES Act or the PPP and may not be relied on as legal advice. This notice reflects the CARES Act provisions without governmental guidance on March 31, 2020. The CARES ACT and PPP are subject to additional guidance and interpretations which may be issued by one or more governmental agencies.