CEO, Rev. Jeff Thiemann

*I appreciate what I see as your contingency planning to explore every possible way to continue ministry and preserve financial viability. We hear and understand your concerns and we are simultaneously praying for relief. We are all in this together.*

*Our top priority is to support the well-being of our plan members. Our ELCA community needs your resilient leadership now more than ever, and Portico is committed to supporting you as best we can. That means ensuring uninterrupted access to medical care, prescription drugs, health support programs, and emotional health resources.*

*Portico administers a bundled benefit program on behalf of this church. Our self-insured health plan is funded entirely by contributions from sponsoring organizations. As a nonprofit ministry, we negotiate contracts with vendors to ensure we get the best pricing for our community. The money we collect from sponsoring organizations and members covers our costs – we have no unnecessary reserves or extra income streams we can tap into to cover the health claims that we, as a community, continue to incur every day. We are relying on sponsoring organizations to continue to pay for your benefits so that we can continue to pay claims and to invest in your retirement accounts.*

*Our hearts go out to the congregation leaders struggling to pay bills when their doors are temporarily closed. Like you, we are adapting to this new reality so that our ministry continues, so that your ministry continues.*

*Not paying for benefits is NOT a viable path to preserving financial stability.  In the short run, Portico will work with congregations to develop a plan for payment over time*