

The Lutheran Church of Our Saviour

A Member of Pittsburgh Lutheran United Ministry

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June 15, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We pray this letter finds you all healthy and happy. We are writing to inform you that we have been busy preparing the church building for worship according to the guidelines set down by the CDC and the state of Pennsylvania.

We will begin worshiping in the sanctuary on June 21, 2020!

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION THOROUGHLY AND CAREFULLY SO THAT YOU CAN MAKE THE BEST DECISION FOR YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES.

How is this going to work?

All those in attendance will be required to **wear a mask**. Since we have not seen each other in a long while and you will want to “catch up”; you are encouraged to do so before entering the building and at a safe distance on the walk or in the parking lot. Once inside the building **we will be maintaining social distancing**.

Upon approaching the door you will notice the doorkeeper who will allow you entrance 1 or 2 at a time to prevent overcrowding in the foyer. The doorkeeper will also ask your name and phone number for tracing purposes. (Tracing attendance allows us to notify you if someone in attendance develops symptoms of the virus.)

Once you are in the foyer there will be **hand sanitizer** available and the **bulletins** will be laid out individually on tables for you to pick up. After you get your bulletin you can proceed into the Narthex.

Your **offerings can be deposited in the box on the flower stand at the end of the center aisle** in the Narthex. And, as always, your offering can be mailed to the church.

There will be an usher to assist you in finding a place to sit. We have taped off 2/3 of the pews for social distancing. This has left us with 5 “useable” pews on each side. Occupancy in each pew will vary depending on singles, couples, or families who are attending and the appropriate social distancing from those who are not within a family circle. Please be aware that though we Lutherans all like to sit in the back this is not going to work during social distancing. You may have to sit further towards the front than you are used to. But the benefit of worshiping together should override our fear of the front pews!
LOL 😊 **Once you are seated please do not get up and move around.**

We will be limiting attendance to 25 persons.

Fans will be on and windows open in 60+ degree weather to circulate the air; so if you feel the need, please dress appropriately or bring a sweater.

The entire service will be printed in the bulletins. The liturgy will be spoken; as singing is not recommended at this time.

There will be **modified communion**. Details will be given before the service and again before communion takes place. When we dismiss **please clear all personal items and bulletins from your pew**. You are encouraged to take your bulletins home but if you do not want to please use the trash can by the front door.

Again, you are encouraged to **socialize outside at a safe distance** to keep the Narthex and foyer areas clear.

How are we sanitizing?

We will be using 70/30 isopropyl alcohol to sanitize hard surfaces and door handles in the foyer, Narthex and Sanctuary. The areas will be cleaned on Saturday and immediately following the service. We are asking that no one enter the Sanctuary once it has been cleaned on Saturday so that it stays sanitized until the service.

At this time we are asking you not to use the restrooms unless it is absolutely necessary. If you do use one let us know so that it can be cleaned afterwards.

Please avoid areas of the church other than the foyer, Narthex and Sanctuary for the time being.

What should I do?

We have done our best to make the worship spaces as safe as possible for all of us. Now only you can decide if you are comfortable with what we are able to do.

Please take time to reread this letter and do what you feel is best for you and your loved ones. Do not feel bad if you are not able or ready to worship in the church building. The **Zoom services will continue** and you can continue to utilize this ministry.

Should you decide to attend services in the sanctuary when they resume on June 21st please remember that your health and the health of others is of vital importance. **Should you be running a temperature or not feel well on a particular Sunday – please stay home that week. If you have attended worship and develop symptoms of the virus please notify the office immediately.**

As stated above, this decision to attend worship services is a personal one and may be very difficult for some of us. If you need help in discerning what is a right and faithful decision please contact one of our PLUM pastors for support and guidance.

May God's blessings be upon us all as we move forward in this "unusual" time.

Yours in Christ,

Church Council