



June 21, 2020

Dear Members of Trinity Lutheran Church,

*Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.
Worship the LORD with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.
Know that the LORD is God.
It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him, bless his name.
For the LORD is good;
his steadfast love endures for ever,
and his faithfulness to all generations. ~Psalm 100*

After three months of worshiping in our homes, it is becoming safer to begin worshiping in-person again, using appropriate precautions. While we have done our best to remain connected to one another, there is little substitute for gathering face to face.

Therefore, we have tentatively determined that beginning with worship on Sunday, July 5th, we will be holding worship in-person in Luther Hall. We will confirm this date or any alternative date via a phone call before our first worship service together. The decision to resume in-person worship must be made in accordance with the Governor's orders in order to satisfy the conditions of our insurance policy.

Worship services will also be recorded and made available online and through other media on Sunday afternoons.

Please remember that we are only able to *mitigate* the risk of contracting COVID-19. The risk of contracting the virus cannot be reduced to zero when interacting with other people. The following practices will be put into place to mitigate risk and keep our community healthy:

- Worship will be in Luther Hall, seated in family groups. There is capacity for 17 family units plus 2 additional slots saved for visitors.
- Masks must be worn in worship and on church property for all individuals over the age of 2. If you do not bring a mask of your own, a mask will be provided.
- Please do not make physical contact with anyone outside of your household, and maintain a 6-foot distance from others at all times.



- Worship will be held in two services at 8:30am and 11:00am. We will move to one service only if and when it can be done without compromising the safety of our members.
- Please call, e-mail, or text Christine McNamara or Thomas Stockford-Shively to sign up for worship attendance over the first few weeks. Contact information is listed at the bottom of this letter.
- When you arrive in worship, you will be seated by an usher in an appropriately sized seating area for your family.
- Hymns will be sung by a cantor using a microphone from the kitchen. There will be no congregational singing inside the building. When weather permits, we may move outside for the sending hymn to sing together while continuing to wear masks and maintain distance from one another.
- Holy Communion will be celebrated weekly. Communion will be set up before worship by altar guild members wearing masks and gloves. Individual portions of bread and wine/grape juice will be distributed by ushers at the time of communion. Communion will be received by the congregation in their seats.
- There will be no coffee hour. We ask that there be no food/drinks at church, as consuming them would require removing masks. The exception is for children who may need a snack or drink during church, and a beverage is acceptable for the worship leaders.
- Children's bulletins and coloring pages will be available. Parents are asked to supply crayons/markers/etc.
- The worship area and restrooms will be disinfected between services.
- If you are physically unable to wear a mask, or concerned about the risks of in-person worship, you may also attend worship in the parking lot using your car's FM radio. The service will be broadcast in short range through station 99.1FM.
- If any church member, visitor, or volunteer, staff, or anyone in the same household, has come in contact with someone displaying symptoms of COVID-19 or has been in contact with someone who has tested positive, please (a) self-isolate for 14 days and (b) contact Pastor Hahn as soon as possible so that the church members may be notified. If Pastor Hahn is not available, please contact Christine McNamara or Thomas Stockford-Shively.

Worship will be different from what we have become accustomed to. However, God *will* be present. If you choose to come to worship at this time, we encourage you to do so with an open mind, seeking community with one another and exploring new ways to worship together.

If you are not comfortable coming back to in-person worship at this time, *please* do not feel pressured to do so. We fully understand and support your preference to continue to stay home while there is still risk and uncertainty associated with COVID-19. We will continue to publish weekly worship videos online, and we will also begin making our services available on DVD. If you would like to receive the service by DVD please contact the church office and we will make arrangements for you to receive a physical copy of worship each week.

If you are feeling ill, and especially if you have a fever or cough, *please* stay home for the health and safety of your brothers and sisters in Christ. Your compliance with this request protects the community, and is essential for resuming and continuing in-person gatherings at the church.

If you would like to participate in worship as assisting minister, usher or cantor, please contact Pastor Hahn or Carol Knoch. While the roles have changed somewhat, we will need plenty of volunteers to share the work of leading and assisting with worship.

As there are many uncertainties with this virus, and the chances of another spike in cases is likely, we may have to cancel in-person gatherings again in the future. If this is the case, we will be sure to keep you informed of these decisions. These decisions will take into account the following factors: spike of cases within our community, Governor's orders, recommendations from the CDC, and recommendations from the Bishop. No matter what happens in the future, please know that the ultimate goal is to help keep you and our community safe.

We look forward to seeing you again, and we pray that you stay well.

I have much to write to you, but I would rather not write with pen and ink; instead I hope to see you soon, and we will talk together face to face. Peace to you. ~Third John 13-15

Blessings,

Rev. Jessica Hahn, Pastor

Carol Knoch, Council President

Contact Information:

Christine McNamara (RSVP for worship, report illness): 517-416-4713;
beancounter105@gmail.com

Thomas Stockford-Shively (RSVP for worship, report illness): 517-398-0773;
49tigger@gmail.com

Carol Knoch (Sign up as a worship server): 517-439-1692; carolknoch@yahoo.com

Rev. Jessica Hahn (pastoral concerns, prayer, report illness): 517-607-9429;
pastorjessicahahn@gmail.com

Liz Taylor, Church office (for general inquiries and questions): 517-437-2647;
tlchillsdale@yahoo.com