

SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Carey L. Miller, Pastor
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Dear Members of St. Paul's,

The Back to Worship Committee has decided to resume worship inside our church building. Services begin on Sunday, October 11th at our regular time of 10:30 a.m. Please know that we are resuming our worship with caution and concern for the health and well-being of our members.

Before you decide to attend services, please be prepared to adhere to the following procedures and guidelines approved by our Back to Worship Committee and the Church Council. Know that these decisions were made to protect everyone, but especially those who are most at-risk. The last thing we want is for anyone to contract COVID-19 in church, which could result in our having to close the church again.

Here are the policies to which you will be asked to adhere:

- Please do not attend services if you have been diagnosed or been in contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 in the previous 14 days.
- Please do not attend services if you have experienced any of the following in the previous 72 hours:
 - fever of 100 degrees or higher
 - chills
 - shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - muscle aches
 - cough
 - loss of sense of smell or taste
 - fatigue
 - sore throat
 - congestion or runny nose
 - nausea or vomiting and diarrhea
- A non-contact infrared thermometer will be used to take your temperature as you enter the church.
- **Everyone is required to wear a mask the entire time you are in the building.** If you forget your mask, we do have a limited supply of extra masks.
- The church doors will not open before 10:10 a.m. for worship.
- Please do not gather in the narthex, but proceed directly into the nave to be seated.
- There will be hand sanitizer readily available.

- As you enter the nave, ushers will seat you from front to back and as you leave, dismiss you from back to front. Please note that you may not be able to sit in “your seat.” Households may sit together but must maintain 6 feet between them and other households. Every other pew will be empty.
- Hymnals will be removed. There will be no singing.
- The service will be somewhat abbreviated.
- We ask that everyone remain seated in their pew for the entire service except to use the restrooms.
- A children’s sermon will be offered, but children will remain in their pew.
- An offering receptacle will be placed at the entrance to the nave for you to deposit your offering.
- Communion will be administered in the pew using the communion “packets” as we do for the parking lot communion. A trash receptacle will be placed in the narthex at the end of the service to deposit your plastic baggie and communion cup.
- Restrooms will be limited to two people at a time. Parents should accompany small children to the restrooms.
- We will still record the services for online viewing.
- We will also continue parking lot communion at 9:45 a.m.

These practices are subject to change depending on the progress or regress of COVID-19. Finally, please be aware that as we gather, there will surely be times of frustration and disappointment. We may make mistakes along the way. There may be awkward moments as we adjust to these protocols and practices. But please know we do this in response to our Lord’s command to love our neighbor. We take these precautions not only because of recommendations from health officials but as Christians it is the best way to love our neighbor under the present circumstances.

Peace and health to all,

The Back to Worship Committee

Sharon Bortz, Anita Eisenhard, Vanessa Eiswerth, Tom Kellogg, Angie Kropf, Pastor Carey Miller, Judy Noll, Peggy Saylor, and Joe Thompson

P.S. We are celebrating Harvest Home on September 27th at the parking lot communion. We are asking for donations of canned goods only. You may bring your canned goods and someone will come to your car to collect them. Thank you.