



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)

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June 1, 2020

Dear Members of Saint John's Lutheran Church,

We are pleased that this weekend we are able to offer in-person worship services for the first time since March 15. While the past weeks have been difficult, we know that God will bring great good out of it all. We pray that great good will be brought about through us, for us, and in us at St John's! The following is our plan for this coming weekend:

We will hold services with 25% of the seating capacity of our sanctuary. We will have four services on June 6 and 7: 4:00PM Saturday, 5:30PM Saturday, 8:00AM Sunday, and 10:30 AM Sunday. The 10:30AM Service will be our contemporary service.

You will need to sign up for a particular service so that we know we are within our maximum attendance. Those who are able to use our church website will sign up the same way we did for the Ascension services: you will click the link on our website (www.stjohnsLCMS.net), which will take you to the sign-up forms. You will choose the service you wish to attend, with the exact number of people. For those who cannot use our church website and don't have an email address, our office staff will be glad to sign you up -- just call the church office as soon as possible and the secretaries will enter the information.

Thank you for your understanding in using this sign-up system. We truly want to have the safest environment possible in worship, and that includes social distancing. We believe the 25% seating capacity is the prudent choice to make at this time.

We ask that you carefully observe all social distancing guidelines when coming to the service. Please wear a mask as you arrive, transition, and depart. Refrain from handshakes and hugs. Greet one another from a distance, enjoy your worship together, and be very careful.

Holy Communion will be celebrated this weekend in all services. For distribution, small groups will come to the rails socially distanced and will pick up the host and the individual communion cup off of the rail, once it's been placed there by the pastors and communion assistants. We know that people are hungry for the Word of God and for the Lord's

Supper. We're doing everything we can to make it a safe and joyful reception inside the church.

We understand that it would be very difficult to have a mask on a small child. We simply ask that you do your best and that everyone be patient with those around you.

Our precautions are difficult, but not impossible. We're being cautious because we don't want anyone to get sick. Additionally, we want others to see that the Christians who have been so eager to come back to worship are being very disciplined and wise as they take loving steps for others.

If you are comfortable only in a service of 20 people or less in which masks are required, please contact the office. We will do our best to accommodate you.

We understand that there will be many people who are not ready to come back to church yet. We not only understand that, we want you to wait until you're comfortable. Therefore, we will continue to offer the same online worship resources. Individual communion visits are also available with Pastor Burdick and Pastor Fortkamp.

People over age 65 and those at high risk are advised to worship through our video resources. If anyone is feeling ill, they are expected not to come to the service.

We are going to learn a lot in this first weekend back together. Things will change as we learn more.

The words of Psalm 122 are ringing in the voices and hearts of so many people: ***"I was glad when they said to me, let us go to the house of the Lord!"*** If you are ready to come back to worship this weekend, we hope that you'll sign up for one of the services on June 6 or June 7. We thank you for your patience. We are available to answer questions, and to hear your suggestions.

The Lord bless and keep you!

- Pastor Burdick
- Pastor Fortkamp
- Jeff Weis
- Chris Niebrugge
- Jeff Stremming
- Todd Zeigler
- Howard Janis
- Jim Schroeder
- Jake Wendling