

PUBLIC WORSHIP RESUMES MAY 24th!

St. Paul Lutheran Church will resume in person worship on May 24th at three separate services; 8:30am, 10am, and 11:30am. The livestream service will continue and will stream at 10am. If you are at high risk for contracting illnesses or are elderly please consider attending the 8:30am service as it has the lowest risk of possible contamination. The sanctuary will be cleaned before each service, but the 8:30am service remains at the lowest risk for passing anything around. Please note the following temporary measures to keep you safe as we join together again in worship:

First and foremost, please be aware of the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and if you are feeling ill and exhibiting any of the symptoms (persistent dry cough, low grade persistent fever, difficulty breathing) please stay home and watch the livestream service at 10am.

We ask that all individuals enter through the fellowship hall doors and exit through the sanctuary and annex doors. Those with mobility issues may enter through the annex door, please let us know in advance and we will assist you. Please do not arrive more than fifteen minutes before the beginning of the service.

You are asked to wear a mask during the service and if you do not have a mask to bring with you, one will be available for you to keep as you enter the church. The use of masks is to protect others from those with asymptomatic cases of COVID-19 that can pass the virus through water droplets in your breath especially during singing! We cannot stress enough that this is to protect others, especially those with weakened immune systems and high risk factors, from asymptomatic individuals. Further, this is the guidance given across state, county, and national guidelines. We are striving to stay in accord with these principles so that we may have in person worship without any interference.

Temperature checks are available to all as you enter. If you so choose to have your temperature taken and it is found to be running high our parish nurse will consult with you.

The hymnals, pew cushions, and pens/attendance cards will be removed during this phase. If you have trouble sitting on hard surfaces you may bring a seat cushion with you although some may find the pews more comfortable without the cushion.

The liturgy will be displayed on the screen as always and the entire service including hymns will be printed in your bulletin. Please take your bulletin home and do not leave it for others.

We ask that you sit with family units, specifically those family units that live with each other in the same household or are in regular, daily contact. Every other pew will be marked off so that six feet of separation is maintained between family units at all times.

Ushers will direct you to a pew. Note, there are never any reserved pews at St. Paul Lutheran Church but we are aware that many tend to sit in the same or similar pew each week. During this

time the usher will determine your seating as it is first come first serve and no other arrangements may be made.

As the first Sunday back in church will be the observance of the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord communion will be provided. The pastor will give instructions in how to receive the Lord's Supper in each service, the method of reception will be slightly different (maintaining physical distancing) but the specific details will be made clear on the day to those in attendance.

During this phase Pastor will greet the congregation before and after the service but will not greet members individually and will refrain from shaking hands/hugging. We ask that members do not greet each other in this way within the nave/sanctuary.

During this phase Sunday School and Bible Study will continue to be suspended.

During this phase fellowship time, coffee and refreshments, and food service continue to be suspended.

We are very aware that this is the most difficult time any of us have ever faced in our lives. We are also aware of the anxiety that these necessary restrictions put on people. If you have any question about the directives or are in need of assistance or counseling do not hesitate to contact pastor at the church office M-Th 9am-3pm during our regular hours or through our Facebook page or email. Your church family is here for you and while these changes are difficult, they are TEMPORARY! We hope to be able to lift many of these restrictions as the summer months begin and God willing as the virus subsides. Until then we rejoice that we are able to be with one another in the Lord's House after two months of livestream only worship! We have learned a lot in this period of time and are excited to move the mission of St. Paul Lutheran Church forward and stronger than ever before. God bless you and we can't wait to see you!!