

June 2nd, 2020

Dear members of Faith Lutheran,

After much discussion with council and healthcare professionals, we have decided to come back together for parking lot worship on **Sunday, June 7th at 9 a.m.** Due to the continuing rise of cases of COVID-19, we continue to be limited with our interactions with each other. Below are a list of recommendations from the council explaining how we will go forward at this time. Please keep in mind, things can change at any time.

Recommendations for coming back together:

1. **Based on ELCA and medical professional recommendations, we will start by holding simple PARKING LOT ONLY services.** This would be safer and easier than utilizing the sanctuary at this point. We will mark off designated areas of 2 parking spots each for each family to use. Ushers will guide each vehicle to their designated parking area and will identify your spot to place your chairs. The two parking spots on the exterior will both be marked off as closed to help keep proper distancing from others in adjacent rows. Also, to help keep things simpler for cleaning, families are required to bring their own chairs. The church will not provide them.
2. **Our goal to resume indoor worship will be at a date when it is safe and we have time enough time to communicate our safety parameters.** We will monitor the situation with health professionals and appropriate data for any new major outbreaks. At that time, council will create a plan that is safe as well as practical and communicate that clearly with the congregation.
3. **Pastor and council will closely monitor the number of outbreaks daily and be ready to suspend in-person worship again when we see an increase in the number of cases.** Since testing isn't widely available in Clinton and Jackson counties, we will instead use the data from across the state and look for patterns to evaluate the safety of the situation.
4. **Everyone who attends worship will follow safe social distancing practices.** Any time worshipers leave their designated parking area, they will wear a mask and keep at least 6 feet of distance between themselves and everyone else. Everyone attending worship is encouraged, but not required to wear masks, throughout the service. Worshipers are also asked to remain in their designated parking spaces unless they need to use the rest room. Any time worshippers leave their designated parking area, they will wear a mask and keep at least 6 feet of distance between themselves and everyone else. Masks will be provided (by an usher) for those who need one.
5. **You and/or members of your household who show symptoms or have been exposed to another person who has contracted COVID-19 in the last 14 days are asked to stay home from services to avoid potential risk of infection. Those who are most vulnerable with underlying medical conditions are encouraged to stay home from services to avoid potential risk of infection. (Symptoms are listed further in this letter.) We also ask**

that anyone who feels their family members or themselves may have difficulty following these social distancing guidelines refrain from attending worship for everyone's safety. Services will continue to be streamed online as well as worship materials mailed to member's homes for everyone who cannot attend services in-person. A designated phone line will also play recordings of Pastor's message each week when available.

6. **In case of bad weather, the outdoor portion of the service will be canceled and Pastor will stream the service to the church's social media pages. Cancellations will be posted on the congregation's social media pages as well as reported to TV and radio stations. People can also call into the church offices to inquire about cancellations.**
7. **Based on Synod recommendations, we will begin our parking lot worship by having a short and simple service of the Word. Communion, music, and offering will not take place at this time.** As our Synod has explained in their guidance for coming back together for in-person worship, we need "first learn what it means to be together under very different circumstances." Once congregations feel comfortable under these different circumstances and have logistics worked out for the new format of worship, offering, communion, and music can start to be added into the services.
8. **The playground will be closed before, during, and immediately after worship to ensure safe social distancing.**
9. **Specific ushers have volunteered and are assigned to remind people to follow our safety parameters during worship.** If you would like to volunteer, please reach out to Pastor Eric or a member of council.

As many of us have seen before, here is a reminder of what COVID-19 symptoms may appear. **If you should have any of the following, please refrain from attending parking lot/in-person worship.**

People who have any of the following **symptoms** should stay home from worship

- ❖ Fever (anyone who has symptoms of acute respiratory illness are recommended to stay home until they are free of fever (100.4° F (38.0° C) or greater using an oral thermometer), have signs of a fever, and any other symptoms for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing or other symptom-altering medicines (e.g. cough suppressants).
- ❖ Shortness of breath (not severe)
- ❖ Cough
- ❖ Chills
- ❖ Repeated shaking with chills
- ❖ Muscle pain
- ❖ Headache
- ❖ Sore throat
- ❖ New loss of taste or smell

People should also stay home from worship if they

- ❖ Have contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19
- ❖ Live in or visit a place where COVID-19 is spreading
- ❖ If you or anyone in your household been tested and are currently awaiting test results for COVID 19 you should stay home from worship.
- ❖ **If a member is confirmed to have COVID-19, please inform Pastor as soon as possible. This will allow Pastor to inform other worship attendees to possible exposure to COVID-19, while maintaining confidentiality as required by law.**

We look forward to coming together to worship again! These safety precautions are in line with the CDC and Synod guidelines. Please use your best judgement when attending worship to ensure the health and safety of yourself and others. As we continue to slowly move forward and with your help in following these guidelines, we can worship safely!

Sincerely,

Faith Lutheran Church Council

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