




## CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Pastor: *Patricia Giannelia*

Council Chairperson: *Gary Gustafson*

May 15, 2020

Dear Christ Lutheran community;

Greetings once again in Christ's name, as we continue our connectedness from afar.

The sun is warmer and the days are longer, and you are no doubt as impatient as everyone else to get out and about more than you have been. The physical distancing and hygiene practices seem to have been effective in that some of the Covid-19 restrictions are being eased by the Province.

The question for many is of course, "when can we get back together for worship?" While groups under 50 with everyone spaced apart are technically permitted, it is not the easiest to do in a worship setting. To provide a sense of what is involved - Everything would have to be wiped down with disinfecting wipes before and after worship, and after each person uses the washroom. This would require volunteers from the congregation, many of whom are at higher risk because of their age. It would also require sufficient supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE), costly and not easy to find. Singing and prayers aloud are not permitted as they increase the risk of spreading infection, and there would certainly be no mingling before and after worship.

All this to say that, until we can better assess the safety of worshipping in person, **worship and other group activities at the church remain on hold.** We will continue with our on-line worship services for the foreseeable future, and provide at home worship resources for those of you who do not have internet. Worship books may be borrowed from the church, which is another helpful at-home resource.

Once again, we encourage those of you who do not have internet to consider accessing it, as it will allow you not only to participate in congregational worship and activities, but it will help you connect with family and friends in a closer way during these isolated times. We would also ask if anyone has computer equipment they are not using and are willing to lend (laptop, tablet, etc.) to please let us know. Also, we have heard of many congregations where those who do participate in worship online phone a friend who cannot, and who then listens in via their telephone.

Thank you for your continued faithfulness and patience in these times, and thank you for your very needed and much appreciated financial support. Thanks also to those who are directly involved in creating our worship services and devotionals, and those who have been doing their part staying in touch with our members. We can certainly use more help with phoning, with dropping off worship resources to shut-ins, and with worship preparation, particularly if you have the technical expertise (camera, computer, etc.) to assist. It is hoped to have enough people involved in worship preparation to create teams that can then rotate responsibilities to allow each other time off, particularly as summer approaches.

We continue to hold in prayer all those who are struggling with any aspects of this time, those who are ill, all who have died due to Covid-19 and those who mourn them, as well as so many who work in precarious situations – health workers, store clerks, etc. May we all continue to "be kind, be calm, and stay safe."

Blessings always,

Rev. Patricia Giannelia,  
*Pastor*

Gary Gustafson,  
*Chairperson*