

Dear siblings in Christ,

Beginning September 21st, 2020, we will begin offering midday prayer services on Mondays and Thursdays at Our Savior's at 12:30 pm. As the pandemic has continued for much longer than anticipated, we need to adapt to a more sustainable way of being the church together. We have done this wonderfully by gathering virtually for worship online, and by meeting in our parking lot radio worship, and it has been such a blessing to be able to see other members, share communion, and worship together!

But we also feel the longing to be surrounded with the imagery of the church, to see the familiar anchors of the altar and pulpit, the pews and the stained glass—even the starburst designs around the chandeliers hanging from the ceiling! After much prayer and deliberation, we feel it is safe to meet for small, in-person worship during the week, and can design procedures and protocols to keep everyone safe while fulfilling this most basic longing: to be with each other in God's presence.

If you will be attending these services, please note the following procedures we need to follow to keep everyone safe:

1. **Please call ahead** to reserve a spot. The people at the health department have limited resources, and have asked us to keep gatherings below 10 people so that they can more easily do contact tracing. We honor their calling and assist the good work they do by limiting ourselves to this number.
2. **Wear a mask** when you are in the church building and maintain distance of 6 feet from anyone not in your household. We do this to give the virus fewer chances to spread person-to-person, and protect others by wearing a mask.
3. You'll find a station in the entryway with hand sanitizer, communion elements, and bulletins. Please **sanitize your hands, grab a bulletin** and a communion set, and come in! Be sure to **sit at least 6 feet** away from anyone not in your household, and please sit behind the marked pew. Pastor will have to project his voice, and keeping our distance keeps us all safer.
4. Worship will largely be quiet and thoughtful, because studies have shown singing and unison speaking increase the risk of transmission. God hears the song in our hearts and the prayers we long to speak; if you do speak or sing (such as saying the Lord's Prayer), **please do so quietly**.
5. When you are leaving, please **maintain the 6 feet of distance** from others not in your household, and keep your mask on until you are outside the building *and* are more than 6 feet away from others. The safest place to catch up with your sisters and brothers in Christ will be outside, so please refrain from your conversations until you are in the open air.
6. Finally, **if you are not feeling well**, experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, or are running a fever, **stay home**. Drive-in testing has been going well, so please consider getting a test to rule out the virus. We need to keep each other safe so we can all be there when we gather again.

We are hopeful that this chance to worship together will give life and hope in the midst of this difficult time. In the coming weeks, we hope to have a plan for a limited in-person worship on Sunday mornings as well. Let's continue to love our neighbor by doing all that we can in this time to reduce the spread of the virus, listen to the good work of the health department, and trust that God is showing us something new and wonderful as we walk in this wilderness together.

In Christ,
Pastor Lucas