

May 20, 2020

Hello Friends! I hope you are well. I am praying for you. First, the big news. We will be offering in-person worship services beginning the weekend of May 30-31. Services will be held at our usual times (Sat. at 6:00 pm; Sun. at 8 and 10:30 am). Thanks be to God!

Please anticipate that public worship in the era of Covid-19 will look and feel very different.

1. There will be a cap of 50 people per service. To avoid turning people away at the door, we will ask you to sign up for the service that you are planning to attend that weekend, either using Sign-Up Genius, or by calling the church office. Sign-up opportunities will begin on Tuesday, May 26. If there's more interest than space, we will consider adding additional services in June.
2. We will spread people out by households to maximize social distancing. Please know the elders may direct you to certain seating areas.
3. The services will be short (~35 minutes) as we are trying to limit exposure and time.
4. Singing is one of the more efficient ways to spread microscopic respiratory droplets. Therefore, we will not be singing as much as we otherwise would.
5. We beg you to wear a mask if only for others in case you happen to be carrying the virus without symptoms. If you don't have a mask, we will have one available for you. I too will be wearing a mask for everything but the sermon. I know the masks can become uncomfortable; that's another reason to shorten the service!
6. Normally, we would celebrate the Lord's Supper, but we will not do so the weekend of May 30-31. We want to proceed cautiously, learning and adjusting as we go.
7. Our custodians will clean the sanctuary after each service; thank you Gretchen and Ben! Still, the elders suggest that older individuals gravitate toward the 6:00 pm or 8:00 am services after the sanctuary space has had ample time to "air out."
8. If you wish to visit with others before or after the service, we ask that you do so outside while respecting social distancing rules.
9. The entire service will be printed out in the bulletin, used once, and then disposed of. Bulletins will be sent via e-mail for those who wish to use or print them at home.
10. We will continue to offer recorded versions of the services and midweek devotions on the web. We will also continue sending hard copies of sermons and devotions to those who do not have access to the web. You can also watch the services on the local cable channel 985 on Tuesdays at 8 am or 3 pm and the following Sunday at 2:00 pm.

We urge those who are 65 or over, (or those of *any* age with a serious underlying medical condition) to protect themselves by worshipping with us from home. It is no badge of spirituality to put yourself at risk, nor is it a sign of weak faith to stay home during a pandemic. Also, this is not the time to judge the faith of others or try to prove the mettle of your own faith by taking unnecessary risks. It's the time to take care of ourselves and one another.

We hope you understand and can accept these changes. I know it's tedious! However, we are trying to balance the need we all have for public worship with the responsibilities we have for your health, the health of our staff and the health of our community. If we must error, we want to error on the side of caution rather than risk catastrophe.

In other news, the Board of Parish Education decided to cancel **Vacation Bible School** this year. St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Lebanon *is* holding an online version of VBS and welcomes any Good Shepherd families to participate. If interested, see the attachment and sign up ASAP. Meanwhile, the Board of Parish Education is sending home via email Sunday School lesson materials for parents to use at home. If not receiving the materials you need, please contact Naomi Neuberger at (920) 206-0566.

The Board of Day School Education is reopening the **Day Care** starting on June 1. As you might imagine, the guidelines from the CDC and State of Wisconsin are many. However, there's room for 27!

The **Women of Good Shepherd** will be having an online meeting/Bible Study via Zoom on Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:30 p.m. All women are welcome to join them. If interested, contact Jan Schadt at [jan.schadt@gmail.com](mailto:jan.schadt@gmail.com).

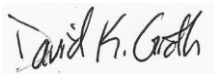
**Dr. Paavola** is preaching this weekend. Watch for the service and Bible Study online. I think we'll finally get to see that shelf he made from scrap wood!

This week's **memory verse** is from Galatians 2:20, "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

**Abigail Grosnick's senior recital** will take place multiple times the weekend of May 29-31 in the sanctuary. Again, we must limit attendance to no more than 50 at a time. Watch for sign-up instructions next week.

In your **prayers**, please pray in thanksgiving for the recovery of Ken Schwantes, who is now home and doing well! Also, we give thanks for Wendy Wilson, who, after 6 weeks being apart from Bea following a fall, is now home! For Rae Ann Wegner, who received her last installment of chemotherapy on Friday. And a prayer of thanksgiving for the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Glenn and Deloris Hildebrandt on May 21<sup>st</sup>, and the 63<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Robert and Agnes Thurow on May 26<sup>th</sup>. We pray also for those with health concerns: Agnes Thurow (hospice), Marge Goecke, Bob Wheeler, John Block (hospice), Jim Strege, Ruth Jones (hospice), Patricia Fox (hospice), and Carol Marshall. We pray for the family of James Schaeffer, father of Sara, who died May 8.

Finally, **thank you!** Thank you for your patience. Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for your generosity. I find it amazing and heartwarming that our income has changed very little when compared to last year. Thank you for that! God bless and keep you!



Pastor Groth