

June 1, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We will be offering in-person worship services starting this Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>. Please be aware of the following guidelines that will be in place to protect your health and the health of others.

At the request of Thompson Funeral Home, if you are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms, have been diagnosed or have been in direct contact with someone who has been diagnosed, DO NOT enter the facility.

**SPACE - Maintain at least six feet between you and those not in your household.**

- This recommendation applies in the parking lot, when entering and exiting the facility, and whilst in the facility itself.
- Worship bulletins will be placed on the pews at safe spacing intervals. Please sit only where a bulletin is placed or as directed by the usher. Those from the same household should plan to share bulletins. Extra copies will be available on the front pew - piano side.
- There should be no physical contact with anyone outside of your household.
  - Children will stay in their seats for the children's message.
  - The peace will be shared from your seat and without physical contact.
  - Individuals and households will be directed forward for Communion by the usher and will return to their seat(s) before the next individual or household comes forward.
  - Worshippers will be dismissed pew by pew at the end of the service.
- Do not congregate in the chapel, hallway, or restrooms.

**HANDS - Avoid touching surfaces and sanitize your hands often and thoroughly.**

The staff of Thompson Funeral Home cleans their facility after each service. I have witnessed these efforts assure you that they are taking all the necessary precautions to protect our health. As a courtesy to them, after our worship services, we will clean and disinfect the areas we use. Help keep yourself and others healthy!

- Use the hand sanitizer provided by the greeter when you enter.
  - Rub the gel onto all surfaces of your hands for at least 20 seconds.
- Do not shake hands with or hug those who are not in your household.
- Drop your offering in the offering plate as you enter or exit the chapel.
- Use the hand sanitizer provided by the usher before you commune.
  - Rub the gel onto all surfaces of your hands for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid contact during Communion. I will place the elements into your hands.
- Limit your use of the facility to the chapel entrance, chapel hallway, chapel, and restrooms nearest the chapel.
- Take your bulletin home with you when you leave.
- If you would like to serve as a worship assistant, AWESOME! We welcome your help! Contact me for touchless sign up for the duties and dates of your choice.

**FACE - *It is strongly recommended, but not required, that you wear a face mask.***

If you have a condition that precludes the use of a mask, DO NOT wear a mask.

If you are wearing a mask and begin to feel unwell, REMOVE your mask immediately.

Otherwise, out of care and consideration for others, please either wear a mask from home or wear one that is provided.

- Wear your mask correctly (covering mouth and nose) and avoid touching it.
- Singing is an integral part of Lutheran Christian worship. Wearing a mask will allow everyone to sing joyfully and worship fully - without sharing germs.
- When you come forward for Communion and after you have used hand sanitizer, use your hand to pull your mask down, grasping it at your chin, to uncover your nose and mouth. After Communion, re-cover your mouth and nose.
- If you feel light-headed, faint, or have any difficulty breathing, please pull your mask down to uncover your nose and mouth until you feel better.
- Take your mask with you when you leave and wear it back next week.

The decision to attend worship in person is deeply personal and should be made by each individual after much consideration and prayer. No one can guarantee your health, but the above guidelines will go a long way in preventing illness. Everyone assisting with worship will be following these guidelines. I will be wearing a mask while handling and administering Communion and anytime I could potentially be within six feet of those outside my household. I will sanitize my hands between each individual or household who communes. Let's all be safe and remember: SPACE, HANDS, FACE.

Adjustments to these guidelines will be made as needed, as the virus, hopefully, abates. We will all need to be flexible, patient, and understanding as we adjust to these health safety guidelines and a different way of worshipping together. We will continue to live-stream worship services via Facebook and post them to the website following worship.

Our physical, mental, and spiritual health are a high priority and concern. Let us trust the Holy Spirit to guide us in our worship and as we love and serve in Jesus' name.

In the Peace, Love, and Joy of the Lord,

Rev. Paulette D. McHugh  
Pastor, Joy Mission Church  
(803)767-7231  
pdmchugh@mac.com