



ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

21400 SOUTH NUNNELEY, CLINTON TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN 48035
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

Dear St. Luke Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Welcome back to worship! Worship services will resume on **Sunday, May 31 with one service at 9:00AM**. Those with compromised immune systems and anyone over the age of 65 need to understand the deadly seriousness of this virus. If you are at elevated risk, have a fever, are feeling even slightly unwell or have been knowingly exposed to the virus in the last 14 days, please wait.

It's not about lamenting about what we used to do. Instead, we rejoice that we can be in God's House and receive His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation through His Word and Sacraments.

The following are procedures are put in place for our return to corporate worship:

- Entrance doors will be propped open to minimize the need to touch door handles.
- **ALL MUST WEAR A MASK.** Disposable masks will be available for those who don't have one.
- Go directly to your pew when you arrive. Please exit when the service is over. Gathering in the Narthex or Social Hall before or after the service is discouraged. Coffee Hour is suspended until further notice.
- Physical distancing rules will apply. People living in the same household may sit together but everyone else will honor the six-foot distancing rule. Seating will be every other pew.
- All hymnals and care cards have been removed from the pews. One-time use bulletins with the service printed out will be available and the care card will be printed at the bottom of the first page of the bulletin. After the service, members are asked to drop the bulletin into the boxes placed at the sanctuary entrance doors.
- The distribution of communion is probably the most complicated aspect of the plan. The following is an outline of the communion distribution procedure:
 - We will not gather at the communion rail as in the past. Instead we will have a continuous line.
 - The altar table will be placed where the baptismal font currently is. The font will be moved off to the side.
 - Those on the pulpit side will be communed first, then those on the lectern side.
 - Communicants will line up single file in the main aisle - six feet apart.

- One person at a time - or members of a household - will approach the altar table.
 - The Host will be placed into your hand, not in your mouth.
 - Individual cups will be spaced apart in the tray.
 - There will be no Common Cup offered at this time.
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- The offering plate will not be passed. Plates will be placed outside sanctuary entrances.
 - Since singing and any loud speaking produces a larger cloud of aerosol particles, we may be singing less than normal.
 - Live streaming of the Sunday worship service and Wednesday devotion will continue.
 - All Bible studies, committee/board meetings, ministry and group gatherings/meetings are cancelled until further notice.

Note: We do not see these procedures as a “new normal”. Instead, we look forward to the day when our Lord will grant us a way to worship Him without these impediments.

Keep each other in prayer. Pray for those who are suffering. Praise be to God for His grace to gather in His house once again. We will share updates as the weeks unfold. Thank you for your patience and understanding. God will get us through this.

In Christ,

Rev. Bert Thompson
Interim Pastor