

WORSHIP SUNDAY JUNE 14TH, 2020:
TWO SERVICES OF WORSHIP, 8:30AM AND 10:00AM

Inherent in this return to worship, is a great risk, as the COVID-19 Pandemic has not abated, but continues to grow in the number of cases and deaths. Now over 110,000 in our country alone, and with the continue rise in infections, placed together with the “re-opening” of many of our business, following crowded protests on our streets, we acknowledge the risks involved, and cannot guarantee the potential exposure that could happen upon the return to “in person worship”.

Members and visitors will need to take personal responsibility for the risks involved in this move to return to “in person worship”. According to the CDC and our ELCA guidelines:

- **If you feel sick**, stay home. Do not come to “in person worship”.
- **If members of your family are sick**, stay home.
- **If someone in your household** has tested positive for coronavirus, stay home.
- **If you are an older person**, consider the risks involved with “in person worship”.
- **If you are a person with a serious underlying health condition** that can put you at increased risk, give serious attention regarding your return to “in person worship”.

Six Feet Social Distance

For those who decided to return to Faith Lutheran Church, for “in person worship”, we will practice strict “social distancing of at least 6ft”. This will include our gathering in front of the church, in the narthex, and in the nave of the church. A distance of 6ft will need to be observed in our seating arrangements, side to side, front to back. Families will be able to sit together, but distance with others will need to be maintained.

Masks/Face Coverings

You will need a mask or face covering, that will cover your mouth and nose. Please put your mask on in your car, leave purses, and other handheld items in your car, lock it. Wear your mask at all times while on church property and in worship. If you need to adjust your mask, or if you have difficulty breathing through your mask, and need to adjust, exit the sanctuary, and re-adjust in the patio area. If you are not wearing a mask, or having difficulty maintaining your mask you may be asked to leave.

No Singing/No Standing

We are aware that the COVID-19 virus is transmitted through breath droplets, that carry the virus. Singing, and overly aggressive verbal responses, can by-pass some masks. While singing is an important part of our worship, for the time we will suspend congregational singing. We will make arrangements for music, and some appropriately arranged presentations from our band, and our pianist will be able to play and present our hymns and songs. While it is our tradition to stand for certain parts of the liturgy, we will suspend that rubric for this time. Less movement in the sanctuary will help to mediate the spread of the virus.

No Communion

We will suspend the Celebration of Communion at this time, to practice our distance and not to pass on the virus through our contact with the elements. In time we will re-institute the service when we believe that it is safe to do so.

Continued

No Sunday School

Because of the challenges of gathering young people together, and presenting Bible lessons, Sunday school will remain closed. A Children's sermon will be shared during worship, but children will be asked to remain in their seats with their families. Children age 3 and above should also wear a mask.

Entrance/Exiting the Sanctuary

When entering it will be important to maintain your distance, in the initial opening, we know that you will be excited to see your friends, do not shake hands, do not hug, maintain your distance. Find your place and remain seated. At the close of worship, you will be dismissed, one row at a time, from back to front. Again, please observe your distance, and return to your cars.

Between the services

In offering two services of worship, the sanctuary, and high touch areas will need to be sanitized. Restrooms will need to be sanitized. The narthex restroom will be closed, drinking fountains disabled and entrance into offices spaces closed.

Congregation Council

The Congregation Council will be taking on additional duties in this time of "in person" worship during COVID-19. They will be on hand to provide any assistance or answer any concerns.

Your Pastor

I realize that there is much joy as we make ready to return to our "in person worship" at Faith. Joy in gathering to give God praise, to offer support and encouragement for each other, to hear the Word of God shared, to enjoy our worship traditions. I am also aware that the above conditions are strict, and may seem overly intrusive, but it is vital that we protect one another, most especially the most vulnerable in our fellowship. I will practice the same distance, remain in the chancel area, wear a mask, and remove it for preaching only, so that my lips can be read by the hearing impaired.

YouTube Services

We will continue to provide online YouTube services, for those in our fellowship who are not ready to return to "in person worship". Our weekly e-zine and web site, www.faithsd.org will have current information regarding these services. Zoom Bible Studies will continue Wednesday and Thursdays. Pastoral services remain available daily. 925 216 6560 pastordavidbeard@aol.com.