



## Good Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church

28680 Cherry Hill Road  
Garden City, MI 48135-2799  
Church Office (734) 427-3660  
Church Fax (734) 522-5613  
Deacon Keith A. Miller

October 14, 2020

Good Hope Sisters and Brothers,

Grace to you and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

There's been quite a bit of news lately regarding COVID-19 in our nation, in Michigan, and in our local communities. And it seems that there is so much information (and disinformation) about the severity of COVID-19 (everybody has such a different opinion), it's difficult to truly know how to move forward with in-sanctuary worship in the midst of a pandemic. Add the layers of confusing and conflicting orders and directives from our State government and health officials, well, it's just confusing.

Your Council is beginning to discuss the possibility of resuming in-sanctuary (in-person) worship. And while there are still many things that need to be decided, there are a few things that are agreed that will absolutely be required. For example:

- Everybody will be required to wear a mask (from the bridge of your nose to below your chin.)
- All will be required to sanitize their hands at the touch-free hand sanitizing stations upon entering the building (through the Narthex doors) before entering the Narthex.
- Worship attendance would be limited to allow for social distancing.
- Social distancing will be required in the sanctuary (every other pew will be closed, and attendees will only be permitted to sit with family members they reside with.)

Additionally, your Council has agreed to contract with a company (who specializes in disinfecting and sanitizing work spaces) to disinfect the Sanctuary and Narthex between Sunday services. And since we know that not everybody will be comfortable with resuming in-sanctuary (in-person) worship at this time, we will continue to offer a pre-recorded on-line worship service, and in-person drive-in church.

As your Council continues to discuss and plan, it is vital that they know your thoughts. So, I'm asking you to respond to the question on the second page regarding your comfort level in returning to in-sanctuary (in-person) worship at this time. This is a very important time in the life of our congregation, so as you prayerfully consider your response, please don't rely on what others have told you about COVID-19 ... do your own research and come to your own conclusion; your responses will not be anonymous, but they will be kept confidential.

Stay safe, stay healthy, and stay spiritual.

Your brother in Christ,

Deacon Keith (DK)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (required)

Question:

Given all you know about COVID-19, if an in-sanctuary (in-person) worship service was offered, would you attend?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_\_ No

In-sanctuary (in-person) worship will be a full worship experience, including the following:

- Gathering.
- Instrumental music (singing will be excluded as that increases the potential of viral spread.)
- Prayers, Confession and Forgiveness, Apostles' Creed, and Lord's Prayer.
- Children and Teen Time (children and teens will not come forward.)
- Daily Message (Sermon.)
- Communion (the exact method to distribute communion safely has not been decided.)
- Dismissal.

Additional precautions and information:

- Entrance into the building will be from the Narthex doors only.
- No social gathering will be allowed in the Narthex or in other areas of the building (we will ask that you are seated in the sanctuary upon entering the building.)
- Dismissal will be by rows so that congestion and close contact is avoided, and you will be asked to exit via the exits near the front of the sanctuary.
- Contact-less in-person worship (no handshaking, hugging, high fiving, etc.)
- Worship time has not been determined, however for planning purposes it may be 9:00 or 9:30 am.
- You can provide your response as a family, or if you wish, simply make as many copies as you need to provide individual responses.

Comments (optional)


Please mail, drop off at the church office (Monday – Friday between 9:00 am and Noon), or place in the offering box during drive-in church no later than **November 9, 2020**.