

**Pastor Michael J. Roth**  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
St. Joseph, Michigan

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July 24, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It has been about 6 weeks since we reinstated in-person worship at Trinity. It has been a blessing to hear the Word and receive the body and blood of Christ together. We were hopeful that conditions related to the coronavirus pandemic would have improved and we could continue life and worship as usual. As you know, we are still in Phase 4 of the pandemic, which requires many restrictions and recommended precautions. Things have not returned to normal and many familiar, comfortable things remain a challenge.

For the time being we will not be making many changes to our worship services. The only exception is we will be adding more singing to our 10:30 service. The 8:00 service will continue as it has been, with only a final hymn. People who wish to worship at 8:00, but are not comfortable with public singing, may leave after communion in this service. For those who are comfortable with public singing and wish to participate in the full liturgical service the 10:30 service will offer this option. Both services will continue to follow the standard protocols of social distancing, masks and sanitization.

Currently, we are not yet ready to bring the Contemporary Service back at 9:15. There are a number of logistical difficulties when it comes to sanitizing the electronic and musical equipment. The gym, with its chairs, stage, and size also presents a challenge. Not to mention, the difficulty with having the Praise Team rehearse and lead worship while social distancing or wearing masks.

We will continue to offer the online worship service released on Facebook and YouTube on Sundays at 10:00. People are also able to follow the services whenever it is convenient by visiting our website, [www.trinitystjoe.org](http://www.trinitystjoe.org).

We are very grateful for your ongoing financial contributions to the ministry of Trinity. I would encourage you to continue in this commendable work. Also, your prayers and positive witness in the community for the sake of the Gospel is a great blessing. Please let any of the church staff know if we can be of assistance to you during this time.

The Lord bless you and keep you in His loving and protective care.

Pastor Roth