



# ST. LUCAS

## EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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May 15, 2020

Dear members of St. Lucas,

As many of you are aware the Wisconsin Supreme Court has overturned the "Safer at Home" order which has freed the way for individuals, households, businesses and counties to determine how to resume activities. As of the writing of this letter, our county has not adopted any additional measures, and our Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod's district praesidium approves of our churches finding safe ways to reopen for public worship as long as we are abiding by local statues and recommendations.

The St. Lucas leadership team has approved the following plan to reopen for public worship and Bible class with the understanding that it is at our own risk and that the risks involved with the Covid-19 outbreak are substantial enough to provide extra safety measures for our public gatherings. We understand that each individual will have different comfort levels about attending our gatherings. We will continue to offer options for at-home worship and Bible study and respect a person's choice to stay home. We will also appreciate attendees' efforts to respect and follow the measures set forth below as the recommended best practices for mitigating the spread of disease in church gatherings.

### **Schedule:**

Starting the weekend of May 23, 24 and 25 we will hold services in the church according to our normal summer schedule: Saturdays at 6 pm, Sundays at 8 and 9:30 am, and Mondays at 6:30 pm. (We will have our Monday service this Memorial Day, May 25.) We will record one of these services each weekend and continue to post the recording on our website. Hopefully, this will spread out our attendance as we try to stay at 25% of our capacity (about 50) per service. If it looks like we are getting too many at one service we will ask people to attend one of the lighter attended services. We will offer communion according to the normal schedule on the weekends of the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays of each month.

### **Safety Measures:**

The following will be the safety measures we will put in place for each public gathering:

1. We will ask our janitors to clean on Saturdays and use a bleach solution to wipe down pews every Saturday. Bleach is supposed to kill the virus for 24 hours.
2. We will ask members to practice social distancing and sit every other pew. Pews will be roped off to maintain these distances. We will ask you to refrain from handshaking and hugging.
3. We will ask ushers and volunteers to wash down pews, railings, doorknobs and other frequently touched surfaces in between services.
4. We will be removing all hymnals from the hymnal racks, and we will print service folders with the whole order of service. We will ask you to take them home or put them in a recyclable bin, but we will not reuse them.
5. We will not pass the offering plate but take a door collection as you leave.
6. We will provide hand sanitizer in the entryway and ask that you sanitize your hands before sitting down for worship. (Any donations of hand sanitizer or disinfectant wipes are appreciated.)
7. You may choose to wear a mask but you will not be expected to.
8. We will offer communion using continuous distribution. (This is a practice used by many Lutheran churches for distribution.) Ushers will invite people to join the line at 6-foot intervals one side of the church at a time. Each communicant will approach the pastor down the center aisle. The pastor will drop the host into your open hand and say "the body of Christ." You will then proceed to the left or the right depending on the side of the church you are sitting on to receive the wine. The pastor with the individual cups will place one cup on a stand. You will take the cup from the stand and as you do the pastor will say "the blood of Christ." After all have communed the pastor will speak the parting blessing. If you are comfortable attending services but not communing, you can make arrangements for one of the pastors to commune you privately.
9. We will ask people who are feeling sick or have any cold or flu symptoms to stay home.

*Continued on next page.*

**Confirmation, Bible Study, Vacation Bible School and National Night Out:**

We plan to add a confirmation service to the above schedule on Sunday, May 31 at 1 pm and limit attendance to just the family members of the confirmands. These families have been notified and are making plans for this service.

We will not be offering the weekend online Bible classes anymore this summers. However, in June we plan to finish up the study of Galatians that was started before that gathering restriction were put in place. This Bible class will be held in the school meeting room on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm and an online session of the class will be held on Thursdays at 10 am. Those wishing to join the Thursday online class will be able to find a link to the online classroom on our website.

We are penciling in a one-day Vacation Bible School for Tuesday, July 14 from 9 am to 3 pm. We are also planning a scaled back National Night Out on Tuesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>. More details for these events will be made available in the June edition of Prescription Notes.

We would plan to follow this schedule through Labor Day weekend and then God willing return to our school year schedule of worship with limited restrictions.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out to any of the Leadership Team members listed below. We look forward to gathering again for worship and Bible study and we pray confidently, according to God's promise, that he will continue to bless us and keep us in his gracious care.

In Christ,

**The St. Lucas Leadership Team**

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