

Re-Opening Hope Lutheran for Church Services

Pastor Burgess and the Church Council are just as anxious as many of you to get back to worshipping together. The council met Wednesday the 27th to discuss how and when services might resume. We acknowledge we have an older congregation, including many who are at high risk with chronic medical conditions. We don't want anyone to get the COVID-19 virus because they attended a worship service. **We want everyone to be safe – we don't want anyone to get sick – your safety is our priority.**

No firm date has been selected to re-open for services. The Church Council believes that they should follow the CDC guidelines of seeing 2 weeks of declining COVID-19 numbers before re-opening. We will continue to monitor statewide and St. Louis County numbers of COVID-19 cases.

Please remember that when services do resume, the decision to attend worship is entirely up to *you*. If you don't feel comfortable attending, that is OK. If you are a high risk individual, stay home, that is OK. We understand and God understands.

We don't want you to attend if you have a fever, cough, or shortness of breath. **Stay at home if you are sick or were recently sick.**

General Guidelines and Directions as discussed by the Church Council:

- Remember that *normal* (the way it used to be) may never occur again. We are exploring what the “new normal” might look like for Hope Lutheran for a period of time.
- You will be required to wear a face mask for the entire time you are in Church.
 - Please bring your own, if you don't have one, we will have one available for you.
 - If you are physically unable to wear a face mask contact an usher, other arrangements will be made for you to attend the service.
- We may take your temperature before you come enter the building with a non-touch thermometer. We may also ask you if you have been sick or exposed to anyone with the COVID-19 virus, or have traveled out of State.
- Hand sanitizer will be available – please use it as needed.
- Social Distancing (at least 6 foot minimum) will be practiced.
 - **NO** physical contact will be allowed in any form.
 - **NO** hugs, handshakes, sharing of the peace, physical contact of any kind.
 - Consider the “common wave” from your seat as our new method of sharing the peace.
- There will be **NO** Bible Study or Sunday School. The Nursery will be closed.
- Entry into the Church will be via the front door (Hwy 73 side).
 - As you enter you are to immediately proceed to be seated in the Church.
 - You cannot stop to visit with others.

- Bring all your belongings with you, you will not be allowed to use the coat rack or pick up any mail from the mail boxes.
 - Ushers will be directing you where you are to sit.
 - The church will be filled from front to back – the first to arrive at church will be seated in the front.
 - Don't expect to be sitting in your “normal” spot.
 - We expect to place family units (same households) on one side of church and singles, etc on the other side. These details are still being worked on.
- Dismissal will take place from back to the front.
 - **NO** stopping to visit, immediately exit building via front door (Hwy 73 side).
 - If you choose to visit outside please do NOT congregate just outside the doors or on the sidewalks.
 - Please practice social distancing and keep your face masks on.
 - **NO** Bulletins. Service will be projected on the screen.
 - **NO** Singing, due to the risk of producing droplet/aerosolized particles.
 - Offering can be placed in a basket at the back of the sanctuary. (You can do this as you enter the church or when you leave, whatever is most convenient for you.)
 - We ask that you minimize the need to use the restrooms. If you do use them, please wipe down the surfaces you would have touched with the cleaning products that will be in the bathrooms. Also please remember to wash your hands – following the 20 second rule.
 - Communion is still being discussed, but it will look different.
 - **NO** fellowship hour or refreshments.
 - Someone will be keeping a list of those attending each service, just in case someone were to become sick or exposed. We need to be able to assist in contact tracing if it needed to be done.
 - We will work to ensure a thorough cleaning of the church occurs each week.

If you have questions or suggestions please contact Administrator Jeff Kletscher or Pastor Burgess.

Do Not Worry

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? *Matthew 6:25-27*

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. *Psalms 46:1*