

April 28, 2020

Dear Members of Cross of Christ Lutheran Church,

Grace, Mercy and Peace be to you from God, our Father and from our LORD and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

CHRIST IS RISEN ! HE IS RISEN, INDEED !!! ALLELUIA !

With the good news from our Governor Greg Abbott, we will – God willing – be meeting this Sunday, May 3, 2020 for our first Worship Service together in 6 weeks. Praise the LORD.

With this in mind, this communication is to: First, advise and educate you on what steps we are taking at the Church to keep us all safe from the COVID –19 Virus and Secondly, what we expect you to do to keep yourself and others as safe as possible.

Let's start with a prayer of thanksgiving to our LORD and for a prayer for those who are making decisions in our Government, Medical people, Scientist, the Church and other Congregations:

Almighty God, You have Called Your Church to witness that in Christ You have Reconciled us to Yourself. Grant that by Your Holy Spirit we may proclaim the Good News of Your Salvation so that all who hear it may Receive the Gift of Salvation. As the Giver and Perfecter of our Faith, we thank and praise You for continuing among us the preaching of Your Gospel for our instruction and edification. Send Your Blessing upon the Word, which has been spoken to us, and by Your Holy Spirit increase our Saving Knowledge of You, that day by day we may be Strengthened in the Divine Truth and remain Steadfast in Your Grace. Give us Strength to fight the good fight and by Faith to overcome all the temptations of satan, the flesh, and the world so that we may finally receive the Salvation of our souls; for You Live and Reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ☩ one God, now and forever.

LORD, keep this nation and all other nations under Your Care. Bless the leaders of our land that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to the other nations of the earth. Grant that we may choose trustworthy leaders, contribute to wise decisions for the general welfare. Thank You for the leadership of the President and the Medical personnel and Scientist during this sickness. Grant them wisdom in the future as we return as a nation to some kind of normalcy. May they serve the well-being of our nation and its people and may we faithfully serve You in our generation and to future generations. through Jesus Christ, our LORD, Your Son, our LORD, Who Lives and Reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ☩ one God, now and forever.

Here is what we are doing at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church to practice Health Protocols:

- Before you even step foot into the Church the Nave/Sanctuary/Narthex/Hallway/Restrooms/Common Touch Points – handles, light switches, counters, etc. – have already been cleaned and sanitized.
- The doors of the Church and the side doors of the Nave/Sanctuary will be propped open. No need to touch any knobs or handles.
- Please enter the Nave/Sanctuary through the side aisles. The center aisle will be closed.
- Offering plates have been placed at the side aisle doors to the Nave/Sanctuary. Please place your offerings in the Offering plates. (there will be no offering taken during the service)
- A gloved and masked Elder will hand you a bulletin with the whole service printed in it (no need to touch or use the hymnals, Bibles, or Rite of Friendship pad. These items have been collected and stacked against the center aisle of the pew.
- Please enter a pew from the side aisle. Early arrivers please move in the aisle towards the center aisle. You should maintain “Social Distancing” between others who might be seated in the row. Families may sit together without “Social Distancing”

- The back pews on the Lectern side of the church have been reserved for “Higher Risk” parishioners. These pews are marked with a “Orange” sticker. Please leave these pews for those 65 years or older or with medical conditions that place them in a “higher risk” category.
- At Communion time the Pastor and Elders will sanitize their hands and glove up. An Usher will dismiss your pew toward the side aisle (head toward the windows) and you will walk to the back of the Nave/Sanctuary and then towards the center aisle after the last pew. Please maintain “Social Distancing”. Then head up the center aisle. There is “Red” on the floor and “White” ‘X’s on the Red tape. Stand on the white “X”s and you will maintain “Social Distancing”. Advance “X”s as the one in front of you is vacated. At the Chancel area there is one White “X” in front of the Altar. Stand there and Pastor will hand you the “Host” with the instruction to “Take Eat”. Then he will direct to the side where you will see a stool with one individual cup of wine placed on it. The Elder, who is masked and gloved, will instruct you to “Take Drink”. After consume walk towards the windows of the side aisle and return to your seat.
- At the end of the service exit the Nave/Sanctuary via the side aisles. Please remember to “Social Distance” the whole time you are at Church.
- There will be no “Greeting, Handshakes, Hugs, etc.) prior or after the Divine Service. Pastor De Young will be available to talk to but maintaining “Social Distancing” about your prayers, concerns and other conversations.
- There will be Adult Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall and in the Gym/Lunch Room.
- We will continue to “Live Stream” the Divine Service on Facebook.
- If you are unable to attend Divine Service but would like to receive communion please contact Pastor De Young (214) 514-4954 or the Church Office (972) 223-9340 and we will set up an appointment that Pastor will be able to get you communion.

Here is what you need to do before and while at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church to practice Health Protocols:

- First, if you are feeling ill, running a fever, sneezing, coughing or exhibiting any signs of illness – please stay home and watch our “Live Feed” on John De Young’s Facebook page.
- If you are in a “High Risk” category (65+ or with medical conditions that place you in a “higher risk” category) seriously reconsider coming to Church. Remember the “Live Feed” is on the computer. You may stay at home and call pastor to receive communion in the future. If you do come to Church please sit in the pews marked with a “Orangen” sticker (back pews on the Lectern side).
- We recommend that you wear a mask and gloves.
- Please do not congregate in the Parking Lot or Narthex with practicing “Social Distancing”. If the Pastor or Elder encourages you to maintain “Social Distancing” or “moving along” please give them the benefit of the doubt that they are looking out after your well being.
- Bring everything that you might need to ensure that you are practicing the Health Protocols of the Federal/State/County/City/ CDC recommendations.

We will be practicing these guidelines in the immediate future and until there will be changes given from the Federal/Medical/State/County/City protocols.

Please remember that these restrictions are for your good and could be lifted by the President of the United States, the Governor of this great state, the Judges and Commissioners of Dallas County, the Mayor of DeSoto, or by Pastor and the Elders if we feel that we cannot ensure a safe environment in which to Worship our God. We know that we are asking a lot of you and that this might seem like a lot of rules and regulations but please remember that the Pastor and Elders are doing this to assure, to the greatest extent, the safety of all our congregational members. Your cooperation and patience will be greatly appreciated as we struggle together to get back to some sense of normalcy. Please keep all those involved in making the decisions for us in your daily prayers.

Your fellow “Sheltered Up” Brother in Christ,

Pastor De Young