



# *The* **St. Johns Servant**

**St. Johns  
Lutheran Church**

Park Rapids, Minnesota

June, 2020

## **We're Planning for Re-Opening Worship**

Wow! Who could have imagined all the happenings of the past few weeks? We had been hoping and planning for June 7 as the date to re-open for worship. With Governor Walz's latest order we felt this would still be best to give us time to make sure we have everything thought out and in place to ensure that we're doing all we can to comply with guidelines and meet the needs of our church family.

Of course, worship on June 7 won't be like it used to be. In order to have the privilege and blessing of worshipping here in our church building with our church family, we will have some new restrictions, rules and changes. The number of people attending will be limited. You need to sign up in advance and maybe wait a week before you can sign up again so everyone has a chance to attend. You'll have to submit to having your temperature taken. You may not get to sit in your favorite pew or near your friends and extended family. No hymnals or cushions. No coffee and treats.

But, we will be able to worship together in our sanctuary. We will be able to have communion. We will have to get dressed, get in our cars and drive to church. We will see each other face to face.

The prospect of being together again, even in a limited capacity, is such a joy! Please check inside for the details on attending church now. We hope to worship with you soon!



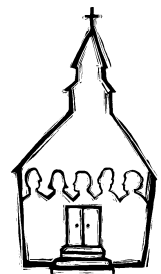
## **What's Your Opinion?**



Back when we were first considering re-opening Pastor Neubauer came up with a survey. We've had it posted on our website and got a great response. However, we know that not everyone has internet access and that many people prefer paper so we've enclosed a copy of the survey with this newsletter. We'd love to hear what you think about the various questions. If you haven't already responded online, please consider responding on paper. You can mail your survey back or drop it by the church office.

## **Voters Meeting Currently Rescheduled to July 14**

Our bi-annual Voters meeting is typically held the first Tuesday in June but the Parish Planning Council discussed having the meeting June 2 and decided that it would be better postpone it for now. The Voters meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, July 14 at 7:00 p.m. Watch for more info and updates as the date grows closer.





## Everything You Need to Know to Attend Worship

### General Worship Information:

- The worship time will stay at 9:00 a.m. Live streaming will continue.
- After the live stream is ended, we will hold the communion service for those present.
- Seating is limited to 80 people. Everyone must sit in their assigned pew.
- We plan to sing. There is quite a bit of dispute over the “science” of singing and virus transmission, so we will be cautious about our singing.
- Hand sanitizers, disposable masks and tissues are available for your use.

### So you want to come to church:

- First, consider if it's a good idea. If you are in a high risk group we encourage you to continue to shelter in place and not risk exposure. If you are not feeling well or have a temperature please stay home. If you think you may have been exposed or have been tested and are waiting for results, please stay home. If you don't have any issues that require staying home that's great! Move to the next step.
- Sign up. To make sure we don't go over our 80 person limit, you must sign up. The easiest way to do this is to call the church office and we will sign you up. You can also go to our website and click the link to sign up online. This will take you to a new page. Scroll down to choose an open pew. Click the “sign up” box. Scroll down to the “Submit and Sign Up” box. Enter your name. Enter your email address if you would like an email confirmation but it's not required. Check how many people (1 or 2). If there are more than two people in your family, sign up for two and note how many will be attending in the comment section. We know some families will take more space and plan to adjust seating assignments to accommodate them. If you attend worship one Sunday, please wait until the next Saturday evening to see about signing up again so everyone has an opportunity to attend.
- Now you're set until Sunday morning.
- On Sunday morning before you head to church, make sure that you (and any other family members) are feeling well and meet the previous criteria. Allow plenty of time to get here and get checked in before the service starts at 9:00 a.m.
- You can park in the front or back lot.
- You are strongly encouraged to wear a mask as you enter the building until you are seated in the sanctuary.
- If there is a line, please remember to stay six feet away from others. Doors will be propped open and an usher will greet you.
- Your temperature will be checked with a no-touch forehead thermometer. If it's over 100 degrees, you will have to go home.
- Your name will be checked off on the sign up list.
- You will be directed to enter the sanctuary, and someone will help you find your seat.
- If you are dropped off at the front door, you will be asked to enter the sanctuary and wait for your partner in your seat.
- A place will be provided to deposit an offering on your way to the sanctuary.
- Bulletins and orders of service will be placed in the pews. These should be taken home or recycled. There will be a box available for recycling. Hymnals will not be used.



- Time to worship!
- After the service, the live stream will stop and we will continue with communion. The pastors will wear masks and thoroughly disinfect their hands before distribution.
- Communion will be done pew by pew. Disposable cups will be used. There will be a basket available to dispose of your cup.
- Once you receive communion, please exit the building.
- If you do not wish to receive communion, you can leave the building when your pew is dismissed.
- Anyone who wants to visit should consider the front or back parking lot and remember to practice social distancing.

#### Other Matters:

- Restrooms
  - \* Limit of two people in a bathroom at a time.
  - \* Follow the posted signs for proper hand washing.
  - \* Use your paper towel to open the door on your way out.
- Drinking fountains will be covered with a “do not use” sign.
- Rooms that are not being used will be locked.



Glorify God. Make Disciples.  
Bring the Gospel.

## What's Staying the Same

- Services will still be live streamed. We're working on improving the sound and getting a new camera.
- DVDs of the services are available. If you would like DVDs, please give us a call.
- Dial-A-Devotion and online devotions will continue.
- Bible studies will continue to be held online and live streamed.
- We will continue to keep you all in our prayers and look forward to the day when we can all join together in worship!

## Sunday School Bags are Being Delivered

Sunday School Students:

Be on the look out for someone stopping by your house with a backpack full of Sunday School materials.

There's also something new and different in the bag, a discipleship Bingo card. Complete the activities on your card. Then bring it back to church on Sunday School Rally Day this fall to get some neat prizes!

Enjoy and have fun!





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Lutheran Church**

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The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod

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