



St. Luke Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Rev. Elizabeth Ann Jaeger, Pastor

N6193 State Hwy 32
Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085
920-467-6149

Church office email- office@stlukeshbfalls.org

Church website- www.stlukeshbfalls.org



May 27, 2020

Dear St. Luke Congregation,

It is exciting to know that we are beginning to reopen the economy and society — and most of all, the opportunity to begin reopening our church. There is nothing more wonderful than being together as one to worship again after many months of not being able to gather in person!

Knowing the virus won't disappear just because we are lifting restrictions, the Council and the Worship Committee have been working closely to prayerfully review the options to begin to reopen the church. As we did this, we relied on *Sheboygan County Safe Restart Guidelines and Recommendations for Action* (SCSR, issued 5/15/20).

As part of the guidelines, there are three phases requiring benchmark criteria to be met for minimum of 14 days before moving to the next phase. Within each phase, the County has provided capacity limits and the number of people that can gather at a time. Based on what we know today, Sheboygan County will likely be through Phase Three on June 25, 2020 – provided there are no setbacks along the way.

For this reason, we plan to begin to hold Sunday worship services outside church beginning **Sunday, June 28, 2020 at 9:30 am**, weather permitting. We will take the following safety precautions as we begin to celebrate together again:

- ***For everyone's safety, we ask that you stay home and participate virtually if you or a family member are not feeling well***
- masks required initially
- bring your own chair(s) for seating
- there will be no greeters
- we will practice social distancing for seating (families may sit together)
- no singing: we ask you silently sing along
- hymnals are not available – an expanded bulletin will include all service content
- there will be no exchange of the sign of peace
- Holy Communion will be available using pre-packaged wafer/juice cup to be consumed at home
- you may place your offering in a designated collection area
- Pastor will not be shaking hands/hugging following service
- hand sanitizer will be available
- we will take extra measures to keep our worship and general areas clean
- we will not be hosting coffee hour

We want everyone to celebrate with us either in-person or virtually based upon your comfort level. We will record a condensed service, posting it on our website, Facebook page and YouTube. Cancellations of outdoor services will be posted on our website and Facebook page.

Worship in the Garden services will be held in the prayer garden on the first and third Wednesday beginning **July 1, 2020 at 6:30 pm** with the same safety precautions as listed above for these services.

The Church Council will continually evaluate the situation. Plans are subject to change based upon current conditions. We are committed to communicating updates as efficiently and effectively as possible to everyone.

Thank you for your continued and regular offerings. Without each of us giving our best out of our generosity, our church could not continue to be here for you.

Please reach out with any questions or concerns that you may have. May the peace of God dwell richly in your homes and neighborhoods in these next weeks.

Sincerely,

St. Luke Lutheran Church Council

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:4-7)