



BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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We pray this letter finds you well. We have worked with the synod on a REOPEN plan to start on July 5, 2020 at our normal worship time of 9:00 AM. In order for a safe return it is important for everyone to follow these guidelines. (regardless of what other churches are doing)

- The service will be recorded and broadcast as usual on the radio at 11 am to serve those that choose to continue to stay at home. We will be keeping the service under 40 minutes since we want to limit the time everyone is in confined space.
- We encourage you to stay at home if you are not feeling well, sick or at higher risk.
- Maintain physical distancing inside and outside the building (at least 6 ft. apart). Replace handshakes and hugs with smiles and waves.
- The sanctuary seating will be marked by bulletins placed in a safe seating pattern and a few chairs will be set up in back in a safe pattern. (Maintaining a minimum 6ft. distance, 12ft from the pulpit)
- The number of worshippers will be limited to the capacity dictated by the new seating arrangement and will be available on a first come first served basis. (about 50 depending on family size)
- No fellowship – no food or beverage will be served.
- Our hand sanitizer station will be set up in the back by the offering plate.
- **Masks WILL be worn and will be available upon request. (We encourage you to bring your own).**
- There will be no congregational hymns as singing is among the riskier behaviors when it comes to spreading droplets/aerosols which can carry the virus a significant distance and remain suspended in the air.
- Offering plates will not be passed, it will be placed on a table in the back so that envelopes may be dropped in upon arriving or leaving. You can certainly continue to mail in your offering if you prefer.
- At the end of service please remain seated until an usher/pastor dismisses you starting from the back. We ask that you immediately exit the building and refrain from congregating inside. We are not scheduling other groups at this time such as quilters. (ACoA uses same room, same day)
- Communion will initially be wafers only, people will come down the center aisle to receive the wafer and returning by the side aisle, keeping social distancing & masks on in the process. We will add the wine by pre-filled glasses once we can do it safely.

These changes are temporary, and we appreciate your cooperation as we seek to abide by the recommended guidelines to keep everyone safe and healthy. Please pray for us as we make our way forward, these decisions are not made easily, we need to keep everyone as safe as possible.