

# CHRIST

## EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Sharing the message of forgiveness and new life in Christ*

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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We thank you for your continued patience as the leadership team of our congregation reviewed several options on how to reopen the church following the COVID-19 “Safer at Home” order. So, how do we move forward? Let’s look at God’s Word for how we can successfully manage reopening together.

Ephesians 4:2-3 says, *“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”* We may not all agree on exactly how to reopen, but we can all agree the unity we have in Christ is surpassingly greater than what could possibly divide us.

With that principle in mind, we will resume worship in phases and each phase will be subject to change and adjustment as we continue to evaluate new information on COVID-19 as it becomes available.

**Beginning Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, worship services will resume in the following manner:**

- The service will follow our traditional format: liturgy, hymns, sermon, etc. and will last approximately one hour.
- Per the recommendation of the Lincoln County Health Department, we will reopen to 25% capacity, or 50 people, with social distancing and other safety measures in place.
- We will use a reservation system to track and record attendance.
- Summer mid-week services will resume Thursday, June 18th.

**What to expect at worship:**

- Please sanitize your hands before entering the building. Sanitizer will be available.
- Ushers will be directing the flow of attendees, including where to sit and how to dismiss.
- Individuals should maintain new social norms such as physical distancing (6 feet). Families can sit and stay together. Seating will be spaced out with empty pews between worshippers.

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**Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
1204 N. Sales St.  
Merrill WI, 54452

715-536-3313  
[www.christmerrill.com](http://www.christmerrill.com)  
[www.facebook.com/christmerrill](http://www.facebook.com/christmerrill)

A member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) [www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net)

- Only the individual cup will be offered during Communion. We will physically distance when approaching the altar and a reduced touch distribution method will be used during the sacrament.
- Offering plates will not be passed. Instructions will be given during the service on how give your gifts to the Lord.

**Important items to consider:**

- Participation in the Thursday worship service is encouraged to help balance attendance numbers between Thursday and Sunday worship.
- We will continue to offer other options for spiritual nourishment, including printed sermons (drive-through pick-up 10:30am till 11:30am), Sunday morning radio broadcasts (8:00am on 96.3 FM and 730 AM) and online sermonettes posted on Facebook and YouTube.
- Volunteers are needed for sanitizing/disinfecting after the worship service. Teamwork is needed to maintain a safe environment for everyone.

Ephesians 4:32 reminds us to be, *“kind and compassionate to one another.”* Let us use our reopening as an opportunity to show our Christian love to our brothers and sisters in the Lord by laying aside our personal preferences out of deference for the needs of others. Always remember that it is by Christ’s saving grace and love that we have been brought into His family of believers and it is as a family that we will endure and overcome these uncertain times.

In Christ,

Board of Elders