

CHRIST

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sharing the message of forgiveness and new life in Christ

Dear member of Christ Lutheran,

The recent Wisconsin Supreme Court decision to overrule Governor Evers' COVID-19 "Safer at Home" order has left many questions for businesses and organizations, including houses of worship, in our community who want to reopen and resume "normal" operation. The Church Council has been meeting regularly over the last two months and monitoring this situation closely as we are as eager as many of our members to return to our fellowship and family of believers. Please know that we are concerned with our members' spiritual health and want to see us return to public worship as soon as possible.

However, we are also concerned about the physical health of our members and recognize that returning to public worship too quickly also comes with risk. Therefore, please understand we cannot simply open our doors and pick up our ministry the way it was before the COVID-19 outbreak. There are still requirements to follow and best practices to consider before we meet again for public worship. The Church Council, Board of Elders and other committee leaders have agreed that our approach to reopening will be informed by, and compliant with, Wisconsin's "Badger Bounce Back" plan and recommendations of the Lincoln County Health Department.

We will need your help during this time of transition. Some of you will be ready and willing to return to church immediately. Others will need more time to feel comfortable. Some may wear masks and others will not. Individual health preferences and concerns must be taken into account while we develop a plan to reopen. We urge you to practice patience, trust and understanding with each other and with church leadership.

When we eventually do return to worship, members will be asked to observe the following general guidelines while on church grounds or at a church activity:

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Practice physical distancing: stay at least 6 feet away from others, when possible.

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A member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) www.wels.net

- Wear cloth face coverings in public settings where it is difficult to physically distance yourself 6 feet from others.
- Maintain small groups: a maximum of 9 people is the largest group size for any room. (Room size must allow for physical distancing of 6 feet).
- Practice good hand hygiene: wash your hands regularly for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects daily.
- Avoid touching your face, eyes, and mouth when in public.

Signage will be put up throughout the building to remind everyone of these guidelines.

Please note: These guidelines are also subject to change pending new recommendations from health authorities, increases or decreases in the infection rate or a better understanding of the virus and how we can prevent its spread.

More specific instructions for worship services, including dates and times, seating arrangements and communion practices, will be made available as soon as possible.

As always, we ask you to direct any questions to the Church Council, a member of the Board of Elders or to Pastor Behm.

We look forward to seeing you again soon!

In Christ,

Members of the Church Council