



# St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's Work. Our Hands.

June 25, 2020

Dear St. Peter Congregation:

It has been a long time since we were last able to be together for worship. We pray that you have been well and safe in these long weeks and that God has blessed you with new strength and faith for these days.

The St. Peter Church Council has voted to begin a phased reopening of the building for in-person worship. This means we will NOT be going back to a full worship schedule for some weeks yet. We will begin with a single in-person Sunday worship service and will add additional services when it seems safe and reasonable to do so.

**Our first in-person worship service will be Sunday, July 5 at 9 am, with the following guidelines:**

- Facemasks will be required of all worshippers except children under 5.
- Temperatures will be taken before entering the building. If you have a temperature of 100 or more, you will be asked to leave.
- We will observe social distancing of at least 6 feet.
- We will be able to accommodate 8 families of 3 or more who are willing to be seated together (can include multiple generations of the same family).
- We will be able to accommodate 16 singles/couples.
- There will be no singing or spoken congregational responses.
- An usher will direct you to a pew so that we can minimize traffic overlap and maintain social distancing.
- After being seated, we ask that you remain in your pew for the entire service.
- Only one bathroom will be available for use and if you use it, you must clean it.
- Children must remain in the company of their parents at all times.
- If you are sick, have a fever, or have other symptoms of illness, please do not come to worship.

Additional guidelines and details about what to expect when you return are included with this letter. For at least the month of July, there will likely be only one in-person worship service at 9 am.

**If anyone comes to worship and refuses to comply with the Council's safety guidelines, that day's in-person worship service will be cancelled.**

We understand that these guidelines are cumbersome and can be annoying for some. But the Council's highest priority throughout this pandemic has been to keep our members safe and our decisions have been made with that goal in mind. Our concern for your safety continues to be our highest priority as we resume worship. The death

of a single member of our congregation from COVID-19 is unacceptable. As followers of Christ, we should be willing to be a bit uncomfortable in order to safeguard the health of our brothers and sisters. Love of God and neighbor are the greatest two commandments, according to Christ, and they should take precedent over our own preferences.

If you wish to attend an in-person worship service and are willing abide by the guidelines, ***you must call to make a reservation*** so that we do not overfill the sanctuary and can maintain appropriate social distancing. Reservations will be taken only for the upcoming Sunday. Other details about making a reservation are contained on the document accompanying this letter.

Remember office hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. You must speak directly with Kathy to reserve a space.

We will still broadcast a full service (exactly as we have been doing) at 10:30. If you are uncomfortable with the guidelines, we urge you to worship via the radio or Facebook Live. We will also continue to send out the service scripts to the homebound and to our email list and will continue to post them on the St. Peter website.

Finally, if you fall into one or more of the vulnerable-to-COVID categories (over 65, diabetic, lung, heart, or obesity issues, kidney or liver disease, compromised immune system), we urge you NOT to come to in-person worship and to stay home for a while longer.

Please carefully review the enclosed document *ST. PETER GUIDELINES FOR RETURNING TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP*, which was adopted by the Church Council on June 23, 2020. This information is also posted on our webpage.

If you have questions, please contact us or any Council member.

May God continue to bless our congregation and our mission of *Knowing Christ, Serving Others*.

In the name of Christ,

Nick Wenzel  
Congregational President

Ann Marshall  
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