

June 13 2020

Dear Members of Zion Lutheran,

The year of 2020 is not what we expected! We have missed being together as a “church family” and sharing the Lord’s Supper together. We are glad to announce that Zion Lutheran Church will be having service together in person for the first time since we have vacated our buildings. It will look different and be different. We will be holding the service in the Zion Hall on June 28, 2020 at 8:45 A.M. If weather allows, we may have this service and others throughout the summer outside.

Because COVID 19 does not respect church gatherings over other gatherings, we will need to follow certain protocols:

1. If you are sick, STAY HOME.
2. If you have a fever, STAY HOME.
3. If you have tested positive for or have been exposed to COVID 19 recently, STAY HOME.
4. If you have an underlying health condition that would put you in danger if you caught Covid 19, we recommend that you not attend worship at this time, since there is not yet a vaccine or a cure and church gatherings are among the activities with the highest incidence of sharing this disease.
5. FACE MASKS to cover mouth and nose are a must as we gather.
6. HAND SANITIZER will be available for use when you enter the building.
7. SOCIAL DISTANCING will be maintained, with family groups staying 6-8 feet from other family groups.
8. Worship will be conducted with NO SINGING and NO CHANTING.
9. Sharing the peace of the Lord will be done at a social distance.... WITHOUT TOUCHING.
10. When we return to celebrating the Lord’s Supper this will be done with each family group coming up at a time to maintain social distancing. Pastor will be wearing gloves for distributing the host and will drop it into your hands in order to not share germs. We will not be using wine at this time. Communion of one kind is fully communion.
11. Staying home does not mean that we’ve forgotten you. We will continue to post worship online on Sundays, prayers on weeknights, and send home Sunday devotions in the newsletter so that whether you are physically with us or not, you are still part of our worshipping community.

Worship on June 28 will not include communion. Our next service together is planned for July 12. We hope to have communion on that date. We also plan to worship together on July 26. Thank you for your patience over the past months. We have been acting out of an abundance of caution, for the sake of the health of all our members. As God’s people we are called to care especially for those who are most vulnerable. That is the reason for the great caution we are exercising, even as we slowly and carefully gear up to be together again. Please understand that if the rate of infection increases significantly, or if we cannot abide by the necessary precautions, we would then reconsider the wisdom of gathering for worship.

Though we have not been together in person, God has been with us through it all. God has not forgotten us and Jesus is watching over all of us. God is not ruled by the government nor is God limited by physical distancing. From our baptism, the Holy Spirit has lived within us at all times. So if times seem out of control, sing praises to the Lord by yourself, with your family, or out of doors, and thank God for what we do have.

God bless and keep each of you.

Pastor Cathy and Zion Lutheran Church Council