

May 26, 2020

Members, Families and Friends of Trinity Lutheran Church and School:

Grace, mercy and peace be unto you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The Psalmist writes in Psalm 84:1-2, "How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God." I am sure you all can resonate. Throughout the past several months, I have truly longed to gather in worship and take Communion with the church family. With the recent decision by the Supreme Court of Wisconsin, I am sure you all are wondering when we will gather in the courts of the Lord's house at Trinity. Well, I have good news! It is time to break our fast and return home!

After much prayer, deliberation, and consultation with other LCMS pastors in Marathon County, the Board of Elders, Pastor Holdorf and Pastor Smith have made the following decisions pertaining to public gatherings for worship at Trinity Lutheran Church:

1. Public gathering for worship will begin again the weekend of May 30-31 with Holy Communion at all services. We will offer worship at the following service times: Saturdays at 5:00pm and Sundays at 8:00am, 9:30am, and 11:00am. Please note that things will be different when we gather.
2. With the continued threat of CoVID-19, strict guidelines will be in place when we gather for worship to ensure the safety of God's people. For more details, please carefully read the attached guidelines. All plans will be continually reviewed, and further updates will follow if necessary.
3. All other church activities are suspended until further notice. This includes Sunday School, Coffee Hour, all adult gatherings (Joy, Blind Outreach), youth groups, all small groups, rentals at the church, and all Bible classes (Sunday and Wednesday).
4. Bible Studies and Devotions will be offered on our Facebook page: Trinity Lutheran Church and School - Wausau and our YouTube channel – Trinity Lutheran Wausau. Daily Banter will change to Weekly Banter, offered Thursdays at 10:00am on Facebook Live.
5. With the continual fluidity of the situation, we will focus on delivering our communication to the congregation via social media and e-mail. If you find that you are not receiving communication via e-mail please contact the church office (info@trinitynet.org or 715-842-0769).

Even though things will look different, we will soon be able to sing together, "I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD. I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!" (Psalm 116:17-19)

May the peace of the Lord be with you always,



Rev. Zach J. Holdorf

Senior Pastor

Safety Protocol for In-Person Worship

The following guidelines will be followed when in-person worship is reinstated at Trinity Lutheran Church:

- If you are sick or experiencing the following CoVID-19 or Flu-like symptoms, we ask that you would refrain from entering the building. CDC CoVID-19/Flu-like symptoms are as follows:
 - ◊ Cough
 - ◊ Fever
 - ◊ Chills
 - ◊ Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - ◊ Muscle pain
 - ◊ Sore throat
 - ◊ New loss of taste or smell
- We will continue to offer services online for the time being
- If you determine that you do not feel comfortable attending worship in-person, you are encouraged to attend online services
- All worship services will be held in the Upper Sanctuary at the following times: Saturdays at 5pm and Sundays at 8am, 9:30am, and 11:00am. This change is to accommodate a greater occupancy and for cleaning purposes.
- For safety precautions, we ask that you refrain from gathering in the Narthex. We encourage you to wait in your vehicle until 5-10 minutes before service.
- Narthex-level restrooms will be open for visitor use. No other restrooms will be open
- For those with limited mobility, please park on Stewart Avenue and utilize the ramp
- Pastors will wash hands before and after services
- Hand sanitizers will be placed at all entrances and at the entrance of the Sanctuary
- Maximum attendance will be set at 150
- Maximum of 5 people per pew, *except* to accommodate an *immediate* family unit of greater than 5
- Social distancing of a minimum of 6 feet between people not living in the same household must be followed. Pastors will greet after service, but we ask that social distancing be maintained
- You are encouraged to come to your normal service time, and then leave when service is over. Please refrain from socializing before or after service
- Every other pew will be blocked off. Please refrain from sitting in blocked pews
- All hymnals, fellowship pads, pencils, and offering envelopes will be removed from the Sanctuary
- Frequently touched surfaces in the church (pews, door handles, railings, elevator buttons, cushions, etc.) will be sanitized after every service by Elders using specialized materials prepared by Custodial staff per OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) guidelines
- Handouts, not full bulletins, will be prepared and left in the pews in advance of the service. Any handouts must be taken out of the building with you when leaving worship
- Non-worship gatherings (Coffee Hour, Sunday School, etc.) will continue to be suspended for the time being. An exception will be made for necessary Voters' Assemblies
- Solos may be sung, but we will continue to suspend Sanctuary Choir and Handbells
- Collection baskets will not be passed from person to person. The collection will be taken at the door and will not be left unattended
- No shaking of hands will take place
- Masks are optional

Communion Protocol

- Those preparing Communion will thoroughly wash hands
- Those distributing Communion will use hand sanitizer before and after distribution
- Communion will be by families/pews. An Usher will release each pew to avoid a line for Communion and to maintain social distancing between families
- For those who are uncomfortable attending in-person worship yet still desire the Sacrament of Holy Communion, please call the church office (715-842-0769) during the office hours of 7:00am-12:00pm to set up an appointment with a pastor