

Members and friends of St. John Lutheran,

The Church Council has made the decision to begin offering a weekly in-person worship option in addition to our weekly online and radio services. We will have one, in-person service on Sundays at 9 AM. Our first Sunday together will be September 27th. The Church Council will continue to monitor and evaluate the Covid-19 cases in our area and Iowa, and may choose to postpone in-person worship until a later date.

Radio Services will still air on KCHA at 9 AM on Sundays and Online Services will still be available at www.stjohncharlescity.org.

There are risks to gathering as a group and the safety of all is our highest concern. If you, or anyone you live with, has a condition that causes increased risk from the COVID-19 virus, we strongly urge you NOT to attend in-person worship. If you have a fever (please check before coming to worship), cough, or shortness of breath, please stay home and worship online or over the radio.

The following instructions are to help make the in-person worship experience meaningful and safe:

- There will be a limit of 50 people for each worship service. This is the number of people we can fit into our sanctuary while keeping a distance of at least 6 feet between households.
- Because seating is limited and because we need every worshiper's information in case contact tracing needs to be done, all worshippers will need to register ahead of time. Only registered worshippers will be admitted.
- You may register for only one service at a time. Please call the church office to register: 641-228-3397. Those who **did not** attend the previous Sunday's in-person worship can begin registering at 8:30 AM on **Monday**. Those who **did** attend the previous Sunday's in-person worship can begin registering at 8:30 AM on **Wednesday**.
- Worship Registrations must be made by Thursday at 4 PM. Please provide your phone number and the names of people in your party.
- Entry and exit will be through the main doors under the canopy. All other doors will be locked from entry, but may be exited in the event of an emergency. The main doors will be opened on Sundays at 8:45 AM for those who are registered worshippers.
- Worshippers will need to check-in with a greeter as they enter the building.
- Face masks will be required for those five years and older. We will provide a face mask for anybody who needs one.
- All worshippers will be ushered to their seats and may not be able to sit in the place to which they are accustomed. In order to fit all 50 people in with proper spacing between family groups and taking physical limitations of worshippers into consideration, we will need to plan out seating arrangements ahead of time. We appreciate your patience and understanding.
- Physical distancing will be practiced. Please sit as a family group and leave at least six feet between each family group. Some seats will be roped off in order to assure that a 6-foot distance between pews is maintained.
- At the end of the service, all worshippers will be ushered out, going from back to front.
- Communion will be offered at every service so that it's available whenever worshippers are able to attend. We will continue to have occasional drive-thru communion, as well, for those who choose not to worship in the building.
- Worshippers will receive communion packets from a greeter when they check in. We will partake of Holy Communion as a group after the Words of Institution. All packets will have grape juice in them and a gluten-free option will be available. Please hold onto your empty communion container and throw it into the wastebasket as you are ushered out of worship.

- Based on current research and recommendations, we will not be singing or speaking in unison. Singing and responsive readings will be pre-recorded.
- Mail-in & online offering is encouraged, but you may also place your offering in the offering plate located in the narthex.
- Acolytes, greeters, and other worship assistants typically participating in worship, will not be serving at this time.

Please keep in mind that these measures are part of a **temporary** plan and will not continue forever. As safety protocols change, St. John's strategy will change, too. Your cooperation and patience will help make this work and are greatly appreciated.

Whether you choose to worship by video or radio or podcast or in person, we're all part of one Body of Christ. Every time we worship, no matter how we worship, we are connected to Christ and each other through the Holy Spirit. Even if we have to do it in unusual and alternative ways for a while, we give thanks that we can worship together. May whatever way you choose to worship be a blessing to you!