

ST. JOHN'S WEST BEND

May 17, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Hello, my name is Brian Pesch, and I serve as Vice President of St. John's Leadership Board. I am also one of St. John's Unified Leaders, which is made up of the St. John's Leadership Board, Spiritual Health Ministry Team, Foundation Board & Management Team. We wanted to keep you informed of ministry changes going on at St. John's during these challenging times.

We are excited to announce that the St. John's Early Childhood Center (ECC) will be re-opening on a limited basis starting June 1st. Nicole Janisse, our ECC Administrator, has been working with Pastor Hesse on the re-opening plan for the ECC. The Unified Leaders fully supports the plan to re-engage care for families in this important ministry. We are aligning with national guidelines to serve parents who are required to work. This includes healthcare workers, first responders and other families who are categorized as "Tier 1" or "Tier 2" workers in our community. We will open to other families as space is available - up to a total of 50 children. This is still about 100 less than the number of kids we were caring for, but it is a start. In addition, St. John's Summer Program for kids will start on Monday, June 8th.

In the area of worship, our worship leaders continue to monitor civil authorities and their directions regarding mass gatherings. We desperately want to open for worship beyond the present limitation of 10 people. Plans are being made to gather in a manner that is responsible and in compliance with governing authorities. When we do re-open for worship, it will likely come with significant changes that could include maximum capacities for each service, additional worship services/times and hygienic safeguards to try to limit the spread of COVID-19. In the meantime, we will continue to offer in-vehicle communion on the 1st Sunday of each month from Noon-4pm like we started in May. We have been blessed by the weekly on-line worship services on St. John's YouTube channel, and these services will continue during this time. Lastly, work on the sanctuary "Projection & Production Project" has begun and is scheduled to be completed in June. While there is much we do not know about when we might worship in person again, we know that the Lord does, and we are called to wait patiently for His will to be revealed.

St. John's ministry, like all churches and schools, requires an extra level of support as we look ahead during these times of uncertainty. There is much to pray about! We give thanks for those faithfully leading us – we are blessed by a gifted and dedicated staff. Please continue to pray for our staff and leaders as you support the work of the Lord's Church with your tithes and offerings.

Thank you all - and peace to you in the name of Jesus!

The Unified Leaders of St. John's

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