

## Weekly Update from Our Saviour's Lutheran Church – June 22, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

It is time to take the next step forward for our worship life. We are planning to start an indoor worship service on Sunday, July 5. Here is what we are looking at as we move forward:

\*Every Sunday we will continue with the online service. That is working well and many members have said that is how they want to continue. We will keep offering an online service every week.

\*This Sunday, June 28 we will again have the outdoor worship service at 9:00 a.m. That has worked well for us.

\*Beginning Sunday, July 5 we will move to a two in-person service schedule for Sunday morning. At 9:00 a.m. we will continue to hold an outdoor service. At 10:15 we will have a worship service in our sanctuary. We've had members ask to have an indoor service; we have members who prefer the outdoor service. We are going to do both as we move into July.

Our church council has put together guidelines for the indoor service; they are included below in this newsletter. Please do take a look at them. We know that we are sharing a whole lot of rules and guidelines, but we want to begin in as safe and orderly a manner as possible.

We are doing the same balancing act that every congregation in Tyler, and the country for that matter, is doing. We'd like to get back to our full worship schedule, and we want to do so as safely as possible. We think this next step will continue to move us in that direction. Please let us know your thoughts and ideas and concerns. And let's continue to celebrate and thank the Good Lord as we move onward in our worship life!

God Bless,  
Pastor Mark

### **Guidelines for Worshipping Indoors**

1. Please if you are feeling sick or have a fever, stay and home and view the online service.
2. The worship space will be marked off to ensure social distancing in seating. Family units will sit together.
3. We will limit attendance to 60 people. Attendance will be on a first come, first served basis. If there are more than 60 people who come, we will use the narthex area as an overflow.
4. Ushers will wear masks and gloves.
5. Everyone will be asked to wear a mask during the service, except when receiving communion. Pastor Mark will also wear a mask during the service.
6. For communion, people will come forward individually or as a family unit. The ushers will direct you. When you come to the front, Pastor Mark will place the bread and wine on a table at the front for you.
7. We will have one song leader and not use our worship team at these first services. We will watch how things are going with plans to add the worship team as we move forward.
8. At the end of the service the ushers will direct people out of the worship space. Departure will be by rows starting with the back.

9. We will remove chairs from the narthex to minimize the possibility of “social gathering”. People can go into the fellowship hall if they desire.
10. We will share these guidelines via flock notes before the first gathering so people are aware of them. We will also hand out a half page of instructions as people enter for worship.
11. We ask for our patience and prayers and suggestions! This is new territory for all of us and will together make it work out well and to the glory of our Lord!

### **One More Note**

I found some words of advice that Pastor David Dykes at Green Acres Baptist Church shared as their congregation is returning to an indoor service. They are wise words, but written in a helpful manner. I thought I'd share them with you:

***WHILE WE CAN** certainly celebrate that we are coming back together again, I want to encourage you to practice **CAUTION** and **COMMON SENSE**. Church as we knew it B.C. (before COVID) won't seem normal for a long time. In fact, we must be willing to adjust to the new normal.*

***WHETHER WE LIKE IT OR NOT**, face masks are going to be around for awhile. We are going to practice physical distancing for longer than any of us want to. Don't allow this to become a political or divisive issue for you. As followers of Jesus, we can use this as an opportunity to show the love of Jesus to those around us.*