Dear Friends in Christ,

Our church council met last week. We made a few decisions that I'd like to share with you. First, we decided to set a tentative date for starting Sunday School on the first Sunday in October. We've been working on when to begin Sunday School. We of course want to get our Sunday School going, that is one of our vital ministries. But we also want to be safe about it. We decided rather than start in September as we usually do, we will wait a month. That will allow us to see how the schools are doing with their reopenings, that should give us a much better sense of how to proceed. I think it is a wise decision. Keep praying for our Sunday School and we will look to an October start date.

Second, with heavy hearts we decided to cancel Oktoberfest for this fall. We hated to do this, our Oktoberfest is so much fun. But things are still so uncertain; and given all the work required for Oktoberfest we needed to make a decision. We decided we will be safe and not have the even this fall. But we will have an even bigger and better celebration next year.

Let me also share a word of thank you to our church council. They are working very hard in this pandemic and making careful and difficult decisions. We are being cautious and operating out of deep concern for our members. I am so grateful to all who are serving on council. Thank you for your work!

God Bless, Pastor Mark

Reminders for Indoor Worship

Just a couple of reminders for our indoor worship service:

First, please do remember to social distance in the narthex as you talk. We are excited to see each other, but let's keep a safe distance.

Second, remember at the end of the indoor service, the ushers will usher you out. Please remain in your seats until you are instructed to leave.

Third, of course please do wear your mask for the indoor service. That is a great way to care for our neighbors.

Thank you!

Online NALC Mission Convocation

This year the NALC's Mission Convocation will be held online. Delegates and pastors from all the congregations in the NALC gather to worship, renew, and do the business of the national church. Our delegates to the convocation are Becky Chambers and Pastor Mark.

The good news of an online convocation is that you are all invited to check it out! All of our members can be part of all of the whole event or a segment. Please do take a look.

The 2020 NALC Mission Convocation will meet online in two sessions Aug. 7-8 under the theme "2020 Vision." The online meetings will be held 5-8 pm. CT on Friday, Aug. 7, and 1-5 p.m. CT on Saturday, Aug. 8. <u>Please go to the NALC's website to find out how to view – thenalc.org</u>

Start for Sunday School

One of the questions our church council has been wrestling with is when to begin Sunday School in the fall. We've decided to tentatively work toward beginning the first Sunday in October. That will give us some time to see how reopening the schools go as we seek to reopen our Sunday School safely. Please keep all of this in your prayers!

No Oktoberfest this Year

Given the pandemic, we've decided to not hold Oktoberfest this year. We want to be most careful to be safe so we will hold off a year. We are going to be back in 2021 even better and stronger!