

Returning to our Sanctuary:

Faith Lutheran Parish Council has developed an advisory “Smart Team” to help us consider the health of leaders, staff, worshiping members and the measures that need to be in place to help protect us if we have any underlying health issues that would put us at increased risk.

Worship Plan for worshippers of St Johns of Cedarbrook and Bethesda in Rossburg Lutheran churches though they may differ in numbers, the average age and make-up of our congregations share enough commonality allowing us to develop a single governing plan. We have developed 4 phases of a Worship Plan and these recommended practices which may need to be re-evaluated and/or modified as necessary to meet these changing times.

Here are some recommendations for protections and protocols for managing occupancy which includes leadership, staff, members, and participants for services, weddings and funerals.

Depending on the situation in our region, state and nation we may move up or down a severity level and will adhere to the recommendations and guidelines issued by our state or local government orders. This document is based on information from the NEMN Synod, ELCA Church, and Public sector.

We will communicate to our member via phone tree, service bulletins, electronic publications using the FLP Newsletter flpnewsletter@gmail.com and Faith Lutheran Parish emails faithlutheranparish@gmail.com.

If you are immunocompromised or at high risk due to other health factors we highly recommend that you stay at home. It is also recommended you to refrain from attending in-person worship if you have any symptoms of being ill.

If leadership, a member or guest begins to feel ill while in the church, they should leave immediately, isolate themselves at home and notify a council or leadership member of the church to their condition. It would be recommended that follow up with a healthcare provider or testing be considered if symptoms persist.

We encourage everyone to regularly wash and/or sanitize their hands multiple dispensers are positioned throughout both churches.

Did You Know: hand sanitizer must be applied thoroughly and allowed to dry to be effective? Or that cloth face coverings are NOT a substitute for maintaining a physical distance of 6-feet from others.

Wednesday, July 29, 2020

- **Stop, both churches are closed, signage posted and doors locked**
 - Worship
 - Services will held 0930 via ZOOM meeting with an invitation from FLP Newsletter
 - No planned services, weddings and funerals in the churches
 - Members
 - Be good Soil, Pray for us all
 - Make contact calls to other members
 - Offerings can be mailed to post office box

- Possibly set up an electronic deposit
 - Councils & Groups
 - Hold Zoom meeting
 - Leadership
 - Working from home
 - Zoom meeting as needed
 - Emergency only
 - Duties
 - Perform minimal building and ground maintenance
 - Building in shut down mode, protect from freezing
 - Payment of staff on a business as normal plan
- **Restricted, both churches are closed, signage posted and doors remained locked**
 - Worship
 - Services will be held at 10:00am in the parking lots drive-in services
 - FM transmitter for improved sound management is being worked on, activated allowing listening with windows closed
 - Continue to look at media options to meet the needs of our members
 - Hosting services; St Johns 1st, 2nd & 4th Sundays, Bethesda 3rd Sunday (if a 5th Sunday occurs service to be held at Bethesda)
 - Communion will be served the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month
 - Communing “in one kind” (i.e. the bread alone or the wine alone) is acceptable
 - Ushers will supply prepackaged wafers when entering parking lot
 - Members
 - Be good Soil, Pray for us all
 - Make contact calls to other members
 - Offering collection box will be available at drive-in services (no-touch deposit)
 - Maintain 6 feet of distance between family groups
 - Sitting outside your cars is allowed, but distancing must be practiced
 - Councils & Groups
 - Practice social distancing (6 foot distance recommended)
 - Meeting to be held to less than 10
 - Tri-council will do Zoom meeting if possible
 - Masks mandatory or not are highly recommended
 - Leadership
 - Working from home whenever possible
 - Pre-scheduled and emergency visits
 - Minimum office visits (scheduled in advance)
 - Will wear face protection (masks or shields) when working in shared office space
 - Ushers control entrance welcoming worshipers and distribute programs
 - Ushers control exiting thanking worshipers and receiving worshiper’s feedback

- Quarterly or semi-annual meeting (if required) will be a Zoom meeting
- Weddings and funerals could be outside, special plans would need to be made
- Duties
 - Perform minimal building maintenance to churches
 - Maintain mowing schedule and grounds work
 - Upgrade systems, communications and preparation for next phase
 - Review of facilities pinch points and crowd control
 - Remove all hymns and paper materials from pews
 - Remove all cloth covers from fellowship hall and reduce seating
 - Payment of staff on a business as normal plan
- **Limited, both churches are open, post limited hours, doors when unlocked, controlled**
 - Worship
 - August 30th targeted transition date for trial sanctuary services
 - Service times would occur at 0830 @ St Johns and 1030 @ Bethesda.
 - Sanctuaries will be posted for limited occupancy and social distancing
 - Ushers control entrance welcoming worshipers and distribute programs
 - Windows will be opened (weather permitting) to enhance ventilation
 - Hymnals and religious materials have been removed from pews
 - Congregations should refrain from singing or chanting
 - No physical sharing Gods Peace
 - Communion will be served the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month
 - Pre-packaged communion kits to be used (temporary or as an option for those not comfortable with handling of communion supplies)
 - Anyone preparing, presiding over, serving or distributing the elements should wear a mask/shield and gloves
 - Servers avoid touching communicants' hands as much as possible
 - Maintain 6 feet of distance between family groups in the communion line
 - Communion assistants to commune last
 - Members
 - Be good Soil, Pray for us all
 - Continue to make contact calls to other members
 - Worshipers will need to adhere to recommended entrance and exiting guidelines
 - Collection box available for members to drop off their offering
 - Masks mandatory or not, highly recommended for adults and children over the age of 5
 - Please plan accordingly there will be a limited supply of masks at church
 - Maintain 6 feet of distance between family groups
 - Avoid hand shaking
 - Practice rigorous hygiene
 - Sanctuary and restrooms will be sanitized after each service.
 - Bathroom doors cannot be left open and cannot be opened without touching the handle, sanitizers will be available for use

- Water-fountain will be unavailable for use and disposable cups will be an option
- Councils & Groups
 - Continue to practice social distancing (6 foot distance recommended)
 - Masks mandatory or not are highly recommended
 - Meeting to be held to less than 25 attendees
 - Tri-council can resume live meetings (if required)
- Leadership
 - Develop limited office schedule, appointments recommended
 - Communicate to worshipers practices for distancing and hygiene expectations
 - Ushers management of processions and recessions to maintain distancing
 - Ushers will open doors for worshipers if doors cannot be left open
 - Ushers will guide worshipers to a pews and manage social distancing/ seating
 - Ushers control exiting thanking worshipers and receiving worshiper's feedback
 - Quarterly or semi-annual meeting (if required) will be a Zoom meeting
 - Continue working to eliminating paper programs / bulletins
 - Weddings and funerals services will need special plans made
- Duties
 - Resume full maintenance activities of facility and grounds
 - Payment of staff per performance based on contract
- **Freedom, both churches are open, scheduled hours and doors unlocked**, we do not know what the new normal will be and we'll do our best to keep you posted as times change
 - Worship
 - Members
 - Be good Soil, Pray for us all
 - Continue to make contact calls to other members
 - "Thanks Be to God"
 - Councils & Groups
 - Leadership
 - Duties