To the Congregation of Nativity Lutheran Church

October 8, 2020

   
Dear People of Nativity,

I am excited to announce that the Council and Pastor Mattei have unanimously decided that **we will be resuming in-person worship on Reformation Sunday, October 25, 2020, at 9:30 a.m.** We believe that we can now open safely, as the governor has lifted all restrictions regarding masks and social distancing. However, we will still be requiring all of you to wear masks and to use social distancing. We will begin with only one service. Should demand exceed capacity, we will consider alternate Sunday attendance or add a service if it can be done safely.   
  
I know that for some of you this decision comes much too early, and for others it is much too late. Under the current circumstances, Pastor Mattei, Council and staff have worked diligently to enable those who can to return to in-person worship again and believe that we can do so safely, with a minimum of risk.  
  
Participating in worship will mean that we must follow all the “Policies and Procedures” as laid out in the enclosed document. We encourage you to read both of the enclosed documents as we approach the date of resuming in-person worship.  
  
Obviously, this will be a gradual and slow opening. We want to make sure that the policies that we have laid out can be followed for the safety of all of our worshipers. Limited seating due to social distancing will require making a reservation to attend service.  
  
I must share with you that I think I have the same feeling about resuming worship that the first witnesses of the resurrection had, that is, “fear and great joy” (Matthew 28:8). I am so excited about finally getting together to worship, but I also feel the heavy burden of wanting to make sure that everyone is safe. We will follow the latest scientific updates and every health protocol that might be helpful as we gather together and give thanks for the never-ending love of God for us in Jesus Christ.  
  
Returning to worship or activities at Nativity Lutheran Church is an individual decision. No one should feel compelled to do something that they are uncomfortable with. It may be that, you can hardly wait to join us for in-person worship. It may be that out of concern or health issues, you have decided not to come to church at this time. Both of those are faithful decisions. If you are healthy and feel safe, join us. If you have any reservations, continue to join us using our virtual worship or listening to our radio broadcast.

In the future I will be sending updates with any changes to the Policies and Procedures via e-mail or letter as needed, based on any real-time findings we discover after implementation. In the meantime, please follow the enclosed guidelines.

As we look forward to the next chapter in our church life of worshiping together again, feel free to contact me with any constructive suggestions for future worship services at: council@nlcww.org

God keep you safe and in joy!



Dan Derenski

2020 Council President

Enclosures: Policy and Procedures for Reopening, Oct. 2020

In-person Worship Service Checklist