

Worship our Lord with joy!

Dear Members of our Good Shepherd family,

Our Coordinating Council has approved a plan to resume public worship services at Good Shepherd with safety precautions in place. We look forward to our first service Thursday, May 21, 2020.

To limit capacity and promote social distancing at each service, we are presently offering additional service times throughout the summer. We will continue to reevaluate this schedule.

Thursdays at 5:00 pm and 6:30 pm (beginning May 21st)

Sundays at 8:00 am, 9:30 am, and 11:00 am (beginning May 24th)

Safety concerns are a top priority. We are following safety precautions as outlined by Washington/Ozaukee Public Health Department Directives, and guidelines provided by our synodical leaders. This includes:

- Limit attendance to 25% of our seating capacity (112 maximum per service)
- Use every other pew, and practice social distancing, stay 6 feet apart at all times, no hugs or handshakes
- Remove all hymnals, Bibles, pencils, and welcome worshipper cards from the pews
- Show the service on the screens, and have a limited number of single use bulletins available
- Children will remain in their pew for Children's Message
- We will not hold a time of coffee and greeting after worship

To manage attendance, we need you to register online for the service date and time of your choice at this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090545aaaa2eaaf85-worship>

- We are calling people who don't have internet and will sign up for them. You may also call the church office at 334-7881 and someone will assist you in signing up. You may also leave a message.
- No Family Bible study will be offered at the present time
- Trained volunteers will clean and disinfect the church after each service. They will wipe all commonly used surfaces with soap and water and an EPA-approved disinfectant. This includes surfaces such as pews and chairs, door handles, light switches, and bathroom.
- Only allow the use of the family bathroom to reduce amount of cleaning
- No coffee or fellowship time after worship
- Masks – We encourage members to bring and wear a mask, but this is not required. We will offer masks at the door if you need one. We are told that masks can help prevent the spread of the Coronavirus to others. Out of concern for your neighbor, please consider wearing one.
- Encourage all members to wash their hands with hand sanitizer as they enter and leave. We will have cleaning supplies available and encourage donations of hand sanitizer.
- Offerings may be dropped off in a designated box on the way out of church
- Anyone who is feeling ill or is "high risk" is asked not to attend

- Please don't feel any pressure to attend public worship at this time if you have concerns about attending. We will continue to offer our services online and on Cable TV. Your pastors are also happy to meet with you personally for a devotion and the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Communion Practice

We plan to celebrate Holy Communion May 21st and 24th.

Communicants will stand in front of the altar, spaced apart 6 ft, rather than walking behind the altar.

A pastor, wearing a mask and gloves, silently puts a wafer on a napkin which people hold in their hand. He does this for everyone in that row, spaced apart. Then he returns to the middle, takes a step back, and says to the entire row, "Take and eat, etc.." This way the pastor is not speaking directly in the face of each communicant.

Wine – another pastor, wearing a mask and gloves, silently holds the tray for people to take their cup as he distributes to each person in that row. Then he returns to the middle, steps back once again to a safe distance and says to all at once, "Take and drink, etc. "..., along with the blessing.

No Common Cup will be offered at this time.

Safety Encouragement from WELS leadership: As we break out of our home quarantines, there is an increased risk that the deadly COVID-19 virus will once again spread in the community. The last thing we want to see is our church become a hot spot for the virus to spread. The virus can spread by droplets in the air or by touching contaminated surfaces. It will be important for churches to minimize the risk of transmission from member to member.

How can you help?

Follow the safety precautions as outlined here, looking out for your neighbor's welfare.

Please bring your own mask so we don't need to supply them.

Donations of masks and hand sanitizer are welcome.

We are organizing volunteers to clean the church after each service (5 times a week), and to call people who don't have internet to sign them up for worship. We can also use a greeter at each service, wearing a mask and gloves to offer hand sanitizer to people as they enter. Email Pastor Hein at revRhein@gmail.com or call him at 334-7881 and he will direct you to the volunteer coordinator of that area.

How exciting to gather together for public worship once again. May the Lord bless our plans to worship safely and with joy!