

## Updated Health Protocols for Worship starting Sunday, May 30, 2021

Dear Friends of Our Savior Lutheran Church and School,

Jesus is the Light of the World. As we see a light at the end of the pandemic tunnel, we want to continue staying focused on our mission: to Learn, Live, and Share Christ. The Lord has allowed us to do that this past year in remarkable ways! Our health protocols have helped our church, school, and community mitigate the spread of COVID-19, and thanks be to God there have been no instances of transmission in our church or school.

As we begin to update our health protocols in light of the improving conditions and recent revisions of the CDC guidelines and MDHHS health orders, we want to continue to stay focused on our mission, and demonstrate love and care for our fellow church members and for our community.

In Ephesians 4:1-3, it says, **“As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”**

May our love, patience, and concern for each other continue to be a hallmark of our witness.

Changes to our health protocols have been discussed this past month by our church staff, Spiritual Life Team, Board of Directors, Christian Education Team, and Administrators as we seek to move forward with consensus among our leadership.

Starting Sunday, May 30, the following updates to our health protocol will be observed:

- **Masks will be optional for worship services and church activities for all participants.**
- For now, we will maintain social distancing for worship and church events, with seating in the church in every other pew.
- We will still sign in on the connecting cards and wash hands when we enter for worship.
- Hand sanitizer will still be available at stations throughout the building.
- Sanitizing of pews will happen once a week, rather than after each service.
- Doors will continue be opened between services for fresh airflow.
- The offering will continue to be taken at the door or online.
- The children’s message will continue via video.
- For now, we will continue our pattern for Holy Communion, with continuous walking in family groups at two stations.
- If you have any symptoms of COVID-19 or are not feeling well, please stay home and worship with us online.
- As always, if you are uncomfortable with our revised health protocols, we hope you can worship with us online.

**Masks will still be required for Our Savior Lutheran School students and staff during school hours while indoors.** The current health protocols for our school ministry will be in place until the end of the school year on June 9.

In the coming weeks, we look forward to the return of hymnals in the pew, drinking fountains, greeters, and Sunday morning coffee. There are more changes to come in June and after July 1 when other state mandates are lifted, and we will communicate those with you going forward.

This process of going “back to normal” will take time, patience, and a Christian spirit of grace. It will feel as strange as it did when these changes happened last year. There will always be the temptation of judgment, disunity, and selfishness. It is our sinful human nature. But by the Spirit of peace, we pray that we can continue to stay focused on our mission to Learn Live and Share Christ as we join Jesus on His mission. We are Easter people! People of joy and hope knowing that, in Jesus, the best is yet to come.

In Christian love,

Pastor Wangelin <><