

Dear Trinity Lutheran Church Members –

We've missed you! We have GOOD news! We are going to gather for outdoor worship in the church parking lot beginning Sunday, August 9, 2020 at 9:00AM. We will gather every week, weather permitting.

We are excited about the opportunity to worship together again, though it will be different than what we are used to. The following guidelines have been prepared by your Church Council after hours of meeting, time in prayer, and careful studying of public health guidelines. Please read all of the points below and make sure all members of your family are informed of expectations and procedures. Know that these guidelines are in place not out of fear, but to protect the safety of others and to obey civil authorities. We ask that you practice patience toward us as we attempt to implement this process. We ask that you show grace toward each other as we learn how to be a corporate body of worshippers with these guidelines in place. A full copy of the Return To Worship Plan can be found on our website: www.stoningtonchurch.org.

Worship Times

Outdoor worship will begin promptly at **9:00 AM** in the church parking lot. **Please arrive by 8:45AM** so that our ushers have time to direct traffic and facilitate seating arrangements.

Attendance Guidelines

Those who are comfortable meeting in person are welcome to come. However, no one should feel pressured to return before they are ready. Per CDC and Michigan guidelines, "Individuals in high-risk categories should continue to follow stricter protocols, and exercise all possible caution. Individuals who work or live with persons in high-risk categories should also continue following stricter guidance." These high risk categories include:

- People over the age of 65
- Individuals with serious underlying health conditions such as asthma, high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, and those whose immune system is compromised.

Please refer to cdc.gov or michigan.gov for further details and explanations on these high risk categories.

As always, please stay home if you feel ill.

If you have come in contact with someone who is suspected, or confirmed, to have COVID-19, please do not attend worship until after the 14 quarantine period is complete, and/or you have tested negative after contact.

Gathering for Worship

As you enter the church property, there will be signs directing you where to park and where to set up. Please pay attention to these signs and to the ushers guiding people as they enter.

There will be a table set up with:

- Bulletins (including safety requirements)
- Hand Sanitizer
- Offering Box (you can also mail it)

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS!

An usher will direct you where to park and set your chairs. **Please wait for the direction of an usher before parking or setting your chairs up.** Our goal is to conduct this in such a way that minimizes contact with others and maintains the public health guideline of six feet of social distancing.

You are also welcome to worship in your vehicle. Ushers will have a designated area for you to park in and remain in your vehicle for the worship service.

Social Distancing

Please help us all maintain 6 feet of social distancing from all non-household/family members at all times. There will X's marked out for seating. Please stay within your six foot perimeter during worship. Please try to maintain six feet of space between each other when entering and leaving the church parking lot. Parents, we ask that you try to keep your children inside these perimeters during service. While children may be excited to see friends, we ask that you be mindful of people's space and avoid contact with other families, intentional or unintentional.

Face Coverings

Face coverings are mandatory. The purpose of the face covering is to protect others from you. We ask that you be considerate concerning the health and safety of others and wear your face covering at all times. Please bring your own mask, but if you do not have one, we will provide one for you.

Things to Bring

Please bring your own chair for worship service. The church will not be providing chairs so that we can minimize contact and areas to clean.

Along with your chair, please remember to bring water, sunglasses, hats, sunscreen, and any other items you may need.

Dress however you will be most comfortable.

During the Service

The service will be printed entirely in your bulletin.

We will not be singing hymns at this time, however we will have a recorded hymn in the service.

When speaking a response or communal creed or prayer, please use a low volume voice.

Church Building Access

The church building will be not be open or available for any reasons during worship due to cleaning and sanitizing concerns.

Cancellation Policy

If inclement weather arises on any week during our outdoor services, we will notify you of cancellation via Facebook, our website, email and Calling Tree by 7:30AM Sunday morning.

Thank you for helping keep others safe as we meet together again as the body of Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Diane Srutowski

Steve Harris,
Church Council President