

May 5, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ at Peace,

*Jesus said, "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me."*

That is the Holy Gospel reading for this coming weekend and we trust in Christ alone, knowing that He is the way, the truth, and the life! Christ is risen; He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

**Please read this letter in its entirety! There is a lot of information for you to consider!**

This coming weekend, May 9-10, Peace Lutheran will begin holding in-person worship gatherings again. We will have our Saturday night worship at 5:00 pm, and THREE Sunday morning services at 8:00, 9:15, and 10:30 am. We are offering the third Sunday service in order to keep attendance lower at each service.

However, as we begin to offer in-person services, we are doing so in accordance with the guidelines that we have received from the State of Indiana. (Please go to the following website: [https://www.backontrack.in.gov/files/BackOnTrack-IN\\_PlacesOfWorship.pdf](https://www.backontrack.in.gov/files/BackOnTrack-IN_PlacesOfWorship.pdf))

Therefore, we are sharing with you these recommendations:

- All individuals who are 65 and above or who have an underlying at-risk health condition are asked to stay home and watch services online for the time being
- We are asking that anyone who is symptomatic or who has tested positive for COVID-19 to not enter the building
- We will continue to have services online through our website, Facebook, and YouTube
- We will ensure 6 feet between individuals or family units of the same households during services – *this means that we will have a 100 person capacity at our services!*
- We will have marked seating, alternating rows – *this means you might not sit in the 'usual' spot!*
- We will clean between each service and disinfect high-contact surfaces
- We will continue to place hand sanitizers in high-contact locations and will ask staff, members, and guests to sanitize their hands as they enter the building
- We are recommending everyone put on a face covering before entering the building
- We will continue to implement non-contact greetings
- We will not be offering coffee or snacks between services

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- We will not be having communion yet; we are working on a routine for safe distribution
- At the conclusion of the service, we will dismiss worshipers in a way that supports social distancing
- And you will see readily visible signage to remind everyone of best hygiene practices

This is going to be a learning experience for all of us. Please make good, sound, and healthy decisions for yourselves, for your friends and family, and for the entire community, and do not regard this as an occasion to 'simply return to normal.' *The virus continues to plague our community, and we will act with appropriate caution and sensitivity!*

As in weeks before:

1. We will continue to use the Internet for our worship broadcasts. Please utilize these as appropriate to your situation.
2. We will continue using our website ([plcms.org](http://plcms.org)) and Facebook ([facebook.com/plcms](https://www.facebook.com/plcms)) for links to services, resources, devotional materials, and additional announcements.
3. All other activities in the building remain cancelled until further notice—except Wee Creations who are planning to re-open next week.
4. Our staff will continue to work from home as much as possible.
5. Our weekly e-newsletter will continue to be sent out with information and announcements; please read it over! If you have not received it, please double check your SPAM folders, as the newsletters might have been delivered there. Otherwise, please email Gina and she will get you on our contact list ([GTeeple@plcms.org](mailto:GTeeple@plcms.org)).

Finally, as I have mentioned before, if you or someone you know is in need of help, please let me know. We have people ready, willing, and able to offer assistance with anything from grocery shopping to meals. We are in this together!

I would like to conclude with encouragement from 1 Peter 2:8-9, fitting for us as we begin again with our corporate, in-person gatherings:

*“You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”*

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard and keep your heart and mind in Christ Jesus.

Pastor Jeffrey Teeple