

SAINT LUKE'S OPEN FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP SEPTEMBER 13TH

***“I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.”
Psalm 122***

Within 3 weeks of Pastor's installation it became clear in early March that our worship life must change. We immediately made the switch to online worship. We kept many of our Holy Week traditions. We kept holding on to God's promises through preaching, sacred music, prayer and our strong sense of community. We have increased connections with all our members to combat loneliness. We initiated Zoom evening gatherings with Pastor. Our Soup Kitchen did not miss a single serving day. We modified and even expanded this ministry, and found new neighbors as volunteers. Pastor was also able to help members who lost employment with your generous contributions to the COVID-19 emergency pastor's discretionary fund.

We've studied the timing and logistics of indoor worship extensively. So, 35 online services later, we are delighted to **invite you to in-person 11AM Sunday worship once again, starting September 13th!** Our adjusted practices are explained below, in a Q & A format.

Q. What can I expect when entering the church?

- Entry and exit is through the main church doors, not the parish house doors.
- Hand sanitizers and face masks will be prominent, for you to use.
- We won't socialize inside. Rather, enter and be seated by the usher, who will show you available seats. To maintain distance, select pews will be marked for seating.
- Hymnals will not be needed, since complete bulletins will be laid out instead.
- We refrain from hugging or hand shaking. People from the same household may sit together.
- We'll open the doors & windows to ensure fresh air.

Q. How will worship be different?

- Our freedom of movement is lessened and we will have a soloist instead of our beloved full choir.
- You'll wear a mask the whole service.
- The Passing of the Peace will be done by a smile and a wave.
- Holy Communion distribution will be continuous (standing, not kneeling). The ushers will guide worshippers forward in a single line, distanced. You can receive bread and wine, although the wine will be poured into small individual communion cups. We will gradually return to our traditional common cup when Pastor deems it safe to do so.

Q. Can I use the restroom?

- Yes. Our Lounge and parish house are temporarily closed on Sunday, but the 1st floor bathrooms are open. The church and bathrooms will be cleaned and disinfected twice a week.

Q. Will there be fellowship?

- Pastor will greet people outside after worship, weather permitting. The fellowship we enjoy occurs then in front of the church while wearing masks.

Q. What else?

- Please not attend if you are feeling unwell or you tested positive for COVID in the last 14 days.

Q. I am still anxious. What should I do?

- Our 930 AM outdoor worship service continues as a safe alternative. You can still view both Sunday services online on Facebook live.
- Speak with Pastor. There is no pressure. Everyone has a different comfort level.