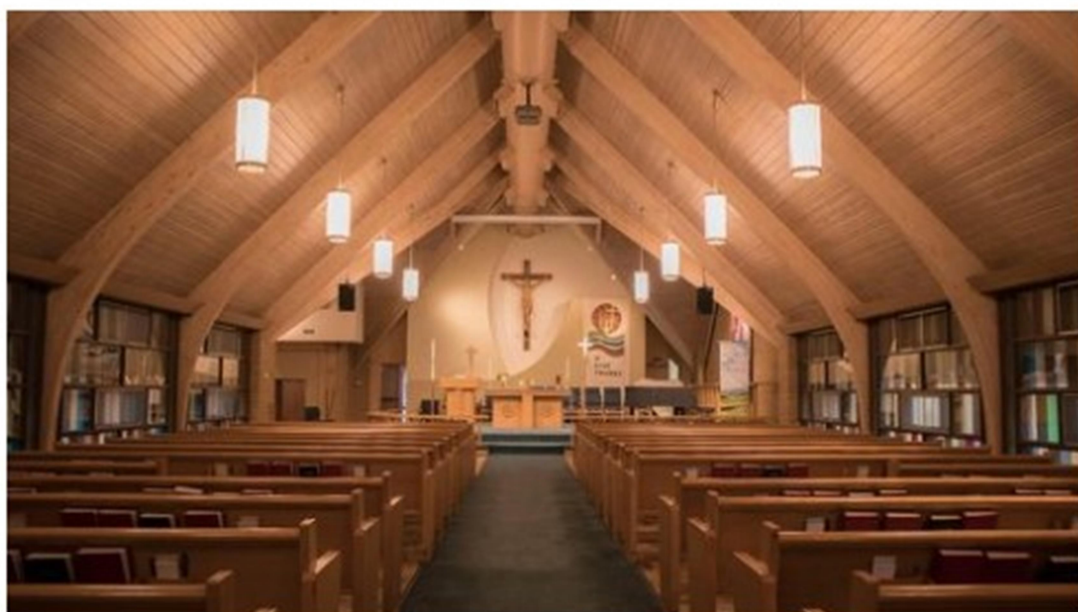




THE CLC FALL GAZETTE

Sharing Christ's Love with Neighbors - Growing More Like Jesus

**Welcome to the Fall/Part I
edition of the CLC Gazette!**



We've enjoyed many beautiful worship services on the lawn outside our building and have reached many members and friends of our congregation via our live-stream worship services. This issue of the CLC Gazette will give you the protocols for our test-pilot return to indoor in-person worship on Sunday, Oct. 25th as well as addressing many of the questions you posed when answering the survey that was recently e-mailed to you.

Watch your e-mail inboxes for the next issue of the Gazette which will include the updated protocols and the date for our return to regularly scheduled indoor in-person worship.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. 2 Cor. 13:14

WORSHIP

Recognizing that due to our human nature we will seldom, if ever reach 100% agreement; and acting in an abundance of caution to allow for the least amount of risk to the greatest number of people possible, the leadership team that you called and elected to serve Christ Lutheran Church has deemed the following protocols appropriate for our congregation to return to indoor in-person worship at this time. These protocols are subject to change as the situation warrants.

Thank you for your understanding, patience, and encouragement as we all navigate these uncharted waters together.

Romans 15:5-6: Now may the God of endurance and comfort give you unity with one another in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sunday Mornings

We are currently offering two options for Sunday morning worship. Both options begin at 10:30 a.m. each week.

Live-stream on Facebook Perhaps you are not ready for indoor in-person worship, are out-of-town, or feel unwell. The first option is to join us on Facebook as we live-stream the service each Sunday. You will be able to see and hear the service as well as type in greetings and comments.

Go to: facebook.com/clcpalatine/live.

Indoor worship: We will have a test-pilot service on Sunday, October 25th. If all goes well, we will begin offering regularly scheduled indoor in-person worship on Sunday, November 8th. You will receive another Gazette with information on that schedule and the protocols we will be following on or about Nov. 2nd.

***Register beginning Wednesday, October 21st at 9:00 a.m. Seating is very limited. The registration number is: 708-341-4075:** You may call Weds. and Thurs. from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Fri from 9:00 a.m. to noon. When the capacity of the Sanctuary has been reached, no more registrations will be taken. Please do not call the church phone number. Please do not sign up by email. NO WALK INS will be allowed due to Covid-19 physical distancing restrictions.

***On Sunday, please arrive for worship no earlier than 10:15 a.m. and no later than 10:30 a.m.** The doors will be locked once the service has started (no late admission), allowing the ushers to participate in the service.

***Masks must be worn at all times inside the building. Physical distancing guidelines must also be followed.**

***Park in the Rohlwing Road lot. The other doors to the church WILL NOT be open.**

*Enter the building at the ramp entrance.

*Hand sanitizer will be available for you to use.

*A greeter will welcome you and take your temperature. 99.5 degrees will be the threshold for safety purposes. If your temperature is higher than that, you will be asked to return home.

*You will then be asked three questions.

1. Have you been out of the state of Illinois in the last 14 days? If you answer "yes," you will be asked to return home. If you answer "no," the greeter will continue to the next question.
2. Have you been exposed to anyone who has tested positive for Covid-19? Again, if you answer "yes," you will be asked to return home. If you answer "no," the greeter will continue to the next question.

3. Have you been tested for Covid-19 in the last 14 days? If you answer "yes" the greeter will ask follow-up questions: a) Did you test positive? b) Are you waiting for test results? If you answer "yes," to either of these questions, you will be asked to return home. c) Did you test negative? If you answer "no," you will be asked to return home. If you answer, "yes," you will be welcomed to enter for worship.

*You will then follow the designated pathway to the Sanctuary where an usher will direct you to the next available pew and enter your name in the seating chart. Once seated, please remain in your seat for the duration of the service. An usher will dismiss you at the conclusion of the service.

*An offering box will be available at the entrance to the Sanctuary. Please consider mailing your contributions or using electronic/online offering options.

*There will be no physical exchange of peace.

*Following Covid-19 guidelines, there will be no singing by the congregation, but there will be music. Feel free to participate by humming softly and/or clapping as appropriate.

*The congregation can participate in prayers and responsive readings using a moderate speaking voice.

*The service will include the Communion Liturgy. Please bring your own bread and wine/juice from home. Pastor will bless the bread and wine/juice present, then each person can commune in their pew. Masks can be removed **briefly**, and replaced **immediately** after communing.

*Windows will be opened slightly to increase air circulation.

*Worship folders will be e-mailed via our e-blast list early in the week prior to worship. Please bring a copy with you to worship and please take it home with you when you leave.

*Please do NOT bring any beverages or food (other than the bread and wine/juice for Communion) into the Sanctuary.

*The coat racks will not be available for use. Please bring your coats with you into the Sanctuary.

*Please do not linger in the narthex, hallways, or the foyer near the ADA door.

*Restrooms: only the ADA restroom will be available. There will be an "occupied/vacant" sign outside of that door indicating if the room is in use or available. Cleaning supplies will be available in the restroom. We are asking that you wipe down surfaces before/after use for the safety of all.

***There will be no in-person worship on Sunday, November 1st.**

Weekday Prayers with Pastor Joel

Pastor Joel offers prayers every week, Monday through Friday at Noon and Saturdays at 7:00 p.m. There will be prayers and scripture readings. These short services are live-streamed on Facebook: facebook.com/clcpalatine.

Post comments, make prayer requests, join us!

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

Each Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Joel has a Bible study online. These 15 minute sessions are currently taking the place of our regular Wednesday night casual worship. These can also be found at facebook.com/clcpalatine.

QUESTIONS FROM OUR SURVEY

Why do I have to make a reservation?

Due to the need to maintain physical distancing in our Sanctuary, there will be only a very limited number of seats available for indoor in-person worship. Once those seats have been reserved, there will not be space available for anyone else to enter the Sanctuary.

Why can't I choose where I sit?

While we trust everyone to do the right thing and maintain physical distancing throughout the building and the Sanctuary, it is important that there is a record of who sat where if the need for contact tracing should arise.

Could we have an outdoor tent so that we can accommodate more people in worship?

At some point, the weather, even with heaters, would force the tent to become an enclosed area which would negate any benefit to being

outdoors. There are also additional costs that would be incurred in renting the tent and heaters.

What style of worship/music will the service have?

Because we will be live-streaming our service as well as having in-person worshipers, we have to make stylistic decisions based on the following criteria:

What fits the message of the day?

What will our reprint and broadcast licenses allow us to use legally?

What will be uplifting and worshipful to the many different preferences of our worshipers?

Thus, the style may include traditional and/or contemporary elements either singularly or together.

Why don't we add a Saturday service or have two services on Sunday?

The Sanctuary needs to not only be cleaned but disinfected as well after each use. There is neither time nor funds available to make this a possibility at this time.

Will the choir/other musicians be participating in the in-person services?

At this time, it is still being advised that singing is not safe at distances less than 12 feet and even that is considered risky. Sadly, we simply don't have the space to maintain safe distances for either rehearsals or in-person worship.

Will Holy Communion be available?

Pastor Joel will continue to bless the elements that each worshiper has brought from home, allowing us to receive communion "together yet separately."

If/when we add additional services, will they be the same or different than the Sunday service?

All services in a given week would be as much the same as possible.

Can I attend services every week?

To meet the guidelines for physical distancing, we must severely limit the seating capacity of our Sanctuary. It is likely that, if many people choose indoor in-person worship, not everyone will be able to be accommodated every week. We will have more information regarding this after the test-pilot service has occurred.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

For weeks I have heard people saying "I just can't wait for things to be back to normal." I remember even saying that a few times myself. But as I've thought about our current situation I have realized how much I don't want things to go back to the way they were. Here are a few of my thoughts...

1. I pray that the next time a friend grabs me and pulls me in for a hug, I actually take the time to appreciate the gift of their embrace.
2. I pray that when school resumes and you are dropping off your kids, you take the time to thank the staff for the amazing gift of education that they provide.
3. I pray that the next time I'm sitting in a crowded restaurant I take the time to look around at the smiling faces, loud voices and thank God for the gift of community.
4. I pray that the next time I'm standing in church listening to the voices of praise and taking communion that I take a moment to thank God for the gift of congregation.
5. I pray that the next time I see a person or situation that needs prayer, I hope I pray as passionately and fervently as I have these past few weeks.
6. I pray that when I am at the grocery store that I take a moment to thank God that He provides us with the necessities of life and the amazing people who work so hard to keep us supplied.
7. I pray that I never again take for granted the ability to hop in the car and visit a friend, go to the mall, visit family, go to the movies etc.

So, truth is, I don't want things to return to the way they once were. I pray that we take the lessons and challenges of the past few weeks and create a new normal. My goal is to pray more, love harder, and truly appreciate the daily abundance of blessings that were so easily overlooked just a mere few weeks ago. If someone tells you they love you, take it to heart!

Author Unknown

WEBSITE UPDATE

The Christ Lutheran Church website is new and improved! Check it out! It's really user friendly and easy to use. Pictures are being updated (an ongoing work-in-progress) and the calendar is being filled with virtual meetings whether through Zoom or Facebook. You'll see ways to connect with others.