



**Bethlehem  
Lutheran Church**

Dear members and friends of Bethlehem Lutheran,

Imagine, in any week, 400 to 500 people worship together through our Facebook Livestream! Many, many more are there listening on the radio. Thank you for your flexibility, resiliency, dedication and support for the ministry and mission of Bethlehem.

At its July meeting and again at its August meeting, the Church Council made the decision to begin in-person worship September 13th at 8:30 a.m. For the past few weeks, members of the Council have gathered on Sunday mornings to establish the safest way to begin worship again. Together, we are imagining new ways to be together as the people of God. The Apostle Paul writes, "Love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no wrong to a neighbor." The preparedness plan is just another way to live out this love of neighbor.

Thank you to the Council, Staff and Preparedness Team who have carefully established this plan. It outlines the guidelines and standards we will follow when we gather for worship each week; how we *love one another*. Below is a summary of that plan which outlines how Bethlehem will provide for your safety during Covid 19 and enclosed is the full preparedness plan. It is a work in progress. Please see our website for the latest updates. We will continue our radio and live stream ministry and adapt the schedule as we go.

What Bethlehem will do to contain the spread of the coronavirus:

1. Sanitize as many surfaces as possible.
2. Increase airflow in the sanctuary.
3. Develop a worship service using safe guidelines.
4. Hand sanitizer will be available.
5. Extra masks will be available.
6. Offering will be collected at the entryway and exit.
7. Unused areas of the church will be cordoned off; please do not cross these barriers.
8. All worship leaders and vocal musicians will maintain a distance of at least 12 ft.
9. Some pews will be cordoned off. Ushers will help you find a seat.
10. Arrows on the floor will mark traffic flow.

What we are asking you to do to show Christ's love for your neighbor:

1. Wear a mask at all times.
2. Use hand sanitizer.
3. If you have any symptoms of Covid 19 or are awaiting the results of a test please continue to worship online.
4. If you are in a high risk group please continue to worship online.
5. Please uphold the social distancing requirement of 6 ft.
6. Follow the signs and marking to help with good traffic flow.
7. Sit only in assigned areas.

How we long to be with you in worship, but what is most important is your health and safety. Until that time, your partners in ministry,

Pastors Susan Tjornehoj and Doug Stave