

BETHEL LUTHERAN - REOPENING

It has been months since we have shut down our worship services. That ends in July.

Sunday, July 5, 2020, we will begin having church again. Same time, same place. Divine Service 3 with Communion.

Weekday Bible Studies will be resuming at their times as well. First Men's Bible Study Tuesday July 7, first Women's Bible Study Wednesday July 8, both at 9am. Men will meet in Fellowship Hall, women will meet in the sanctuary.

Here's what you need to know:

Please wear a mask at all times. Those without masks will be asked to leave. I know they are uncomfortable but they are also one of our best weapons against this thing right now. I will not be masked, but I will be far enough away. I cannot project my voice through a mask productively, so that's why I'm not.

Ushers will seat you upon entering the building. We will be trying to keep families together but spread them out.

Hand sanitizer in some form will be available in the narthex. Use it.

Limit bathroom trips.

Please do not gather in groups and socialize before or after services. If there is someone you need to talk to, stay at a distance. This one is hard, but there is a way to spread out and still chat with your friends. Consider moving to a different part of the sidewalk so that people going to their cars may pass by. Do not congregate in doorways.

Communion is going to be weird and I will explain that when we get there.

Matins will not be done for a long while. I believe I hear distant cheering at that.

All other previous precautions in effect. No food to be served, no common cup, offering plate will not be circulated. Voter's Meetings may be held, and we'll tell you about that when it comes. Sunday School will do things (and stuff!) when that becomes relevant again.

If you are uncomfortable or afraid of coming to church, you are under no obligation to come. That is quite simply between you, your conscience, and God. I will continue to offer (on Wednesdays) personal, small Communion services like I have been doing.

Thank you for your patience and support. We aren't out of the woods yet, but the undergrowth is thinning, and the bird calls are starting to sound less echo-y.

I'm not sure that analogy works. Regardless, church again. In July.

Pastor Fremer