

Congregational Update in Response to COVID-19 May 20, 2020

I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." (Psalm 122:1)

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Our church council, as part of its regular meeting on May 18th approved to restart in-person services on Sunday May 24th. While we begin meeting together in church on May 24th, we will take precautions to make sure people can worship as safely as we can.

How services will work:

- 1) Spacing: Our deacons will make sure that people space properly. That means people will sit with a pew separating them from the other fellow worshippers. The only exception to this rule is that families will still be able to sit together.
- 2) Greeters: We will still have greeters, but they will greet in the larger lobby, so that we can have plenty of space to maintain a 6 foot distance from each other and still greet people.
- 3) Offering: We will have an offering collection, but we will not pass the plate. Instead, offerings can be placed in offering plates located near the exits.
- 4) Dismissal: Deacons will dismiss by rows, starting from the back of the church and also from the front. They will direct you to the proper exit. You can keep your bulletins that you use. If you are staying for Bible Study or would like to use the other exit, just remain seated until the other set of deacons get to your place.
- 5) Masks: Masks are recommended per our Health County Board, but they are not absolutely required.
- 6) Online Services: Online services will continue. We understand that people may still feel uncomfortable joining with us. Therefore, we will continue with posting our recorded online services. However, they will be posted on Sunday night at 7 pm, instead of Saturday night.

What will also resume:

- 1) Adult Bible Class and Teen Bible Class will resume. Adult Bible Class will meet in the Sanctuary after early service. It will dismiss at 10 am, so that people who would like to come for late service can situate themselves at this time. Teen class will meet in school and dismiss at 10 am. Sunday School is still suspended at this time. We will look to resume in the fall.

2) Other meetings and groups can begin to resume their functions, if they haven't already.

Other helpful information:

1) We plan on having communion services in June, but you can still receive communion by making an appointment with our pastors. Please call Pastor Schmitzer at 419-365-1350 or Pastor Matt Nowak at 419-302-5271 to set an appointment for private communion, if you would like.

2) If you would like more online resources for devotional material, you can check out our school Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/tlsjenera/>.

I pray that this information helps you as we prepare to meet again and serve you with the Word of the Lord.

God bless you all as you celebrate our Savior's victorious reign and how he extends his kingdom through the work of the Holy Spirit.

In Christ,

Pastor Matt Nowak