



BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
& Early Childhood Education Center

Sharing the Life and Love of Jesus

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Dear brothers and sisters in our Risen Savior – Jesus Christ,

As life is being defined in very different ways for us - know that the eternal meaning of life has been defined for us in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ! He is our life - we are defined for living by Him...

I want to share with you some tentative plans the Elders and I have been working through in light of a possible Phase 1 opening as directed by our Governor for our communities beginning Friday, May 15th. These are our hopes at this time, but as we know too well these last months, anything can change at anytime! As we share these hopes we want you to understand that just because we may be offering something in this Phase 1 plan doesn't mean you need to engage in it. If you are uncomfortable, tentative or even afraid, that's okay - we'll work into a "new normal" together and be patient with one another, understanding that the events of these past months have affected us in many different ways. And, if you are in one of the vulnerable groups identified with this virus, please keep yourself safe! We will continue to offer on-line, live-streaming opportunities for you to plug into.

So, in light of the Governor's Phase 1 plan:

1. We will abide by the Governor's guidelines with the understanding that not everyone will be comfortable or able, nor should they engage in activities if they are in a vulnerable Covid-19 group, as we open in Phase 1 opportunities...remember:

+ Please stay home if you are sick, experiencing symptoms of any kind, are immunocompromised, or are at greater risk of contagion for any reason...

2. Because we usually enjoy worship at Trinity on Memorial Day weekend we are planning to worship there on Sunday, May 24th, **weather permitting**:
 - + we will gather outside for worship:
 - ...bring a lawn chair
 - ...wear a mask
 - ...keep social-distancing except in family groups
 - ...Pastor Tim will lead worship from the steps of the sanctuary building
 - ...we hope to have a PA system
 - ...we hope to be able to celebrate Holy Communion
 - + we will celebrate our Memorial Day tribute
 - + we will NOT have the picnic

3. We hope to be in our Bethany sanctuary on Sunday, May 31st, and subsequent Sundays with the Phase 1 guidelines of:
 - ...50% capacity use of the sanctuary (which is 125 but probably less due to social-distancing needs)
 - ...sit in the designated areas only, they have been established for proper social-distancing; if there is not enough seating in a designated area for a family group you may move seating to accommodate
 - ...please use the main Front Doors to enter and exit as they will be propped open to eliminate touch points
 - ...we are encouraging the wearing of masks, and gloves if you like, hand sanitizer is available
 - ...appropriate social-distancing must be practiced except among family groups
 - ...we will NOT have food or beverages
 - ...fellowship will be very limited - mostly just coming and going
 - ...appropriate cleaning and disinfecting will take place before and after use of spaces
 - ...we will continue to provide worship via live-streaming at bethanylcw.org or on our Facebook page...

4. Bible Study will continue to be live-streamed on Wednesdays with it recorded for later use...

5. Our Early Childhood Education Center Ministry Team is discussing plans to possibly open this summer according to Phase 1, and subsequent Phase's, guidelines. We continue to take enrollment for the fall and our staff is looking forward to coming back...

Again, these are our tentative hopes...subject to change and available to you when you are comfortable and able. We welcome your thoughts and comments, suggestions and ideas. And, as always, we rejoice in our unity in Jesus and the joy of praying for one another...until the fulness of our fellowship is known, may the peace of our Savior and the steadfastness of His Spirit be with you!

Pastor Tim & the Elders

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