



Child of God Lutheran Church and School

650 Salt Lick Road
St. Peters, MO 63376
636-970-7080
www.childofgodlutheran.org

May 26, 2020

Dear Child of God family,

It is difficult to imagine just how much life has changed in the past two months as we have had to learn to live with COVID – 19. Our life has been disrupted. Our life has been in flux. And while some it has been good in that it has forced us to re-think about what is important in life, it has also come with difficulty and sorrow – unemployment, physical and emotional health, even the loss of life. Some have had to changes wedding plan, a school year that ended under less than perfect circumstances, and the families who had to endure the challenge of the new health care protocols. This has not been an easy path and we are still on this journey.

In the midst of this we have not been able to gather for public in-person worship. Our last service at Child of the God was Sunday, March 15th. I remember the sanitizing preparations and all the minor tweaks to the service that weekend. Three days later we were in total lock down and creating a full online ministry platform.

I am also encouraged in the two months by the many people who have stepped up to help make church and ministry still happen during this time. I thank God for the many uplifting and encouraging words and cards and calls. I thank God for the many people who have given their time and care to the hurting people of our congregation and community. I thank God for the continual financial and prayer support that so many people have given to Child of God. And, I thank God that although we have not been able to worship in person for two months, that our worship and bible study attendance has remained very strong. We, your staff and leadership, are now making the plans necessary to re-open the church doors and assemble once again for public in-person worship. We want you to know that we are seeking to open for worship on Sunday May 31. This decision is exciting but it does come without newness. This decision is based on conversations with public health officials, government officials, synod and district guidelines, and dialogue with our neighboring Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod churches. We are making this decision knowing that COVID – 19 is still a real and present threat that will continue to disrupt our lives for the foreseeable future.

Please be patient and tolerant as we begin worship with changes. We do understand that there are differing points of view and just how far we should go in protective measures --- masks, sanitizers, distancing, etc. For now, the reasonable approach is to go with the one with the least amount of risk, which means employing all suggested CDC guidelines for public gatherings. As we work together accordingly, we will continue to assess the current risk of the virus with the current CDC and Synodical guidelines.

Read carefully the following guidelines.

In Christ,

Child of God Staff and Mission Board



“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God.” 1 John 3:1

Child of God in-person worship guidelines:

1. Those who are symptomatic, meaning they have a fever, sore throat, vomiting, etc... or who have known exposure to another with the coronavirus within 14 days are not permitted to enter the church. They should self-quarantine for 14 days from the time they had symptoms or have come in contact with someone who had the virus.
2. Those who have underlying health issues are strongly encouraged to remain home and worship online. We will continue to offer our online livestream worship services as well as other ministry opportunities.
3. To enter the church please enter through East Entrance (playground) if you parked on the east side of the campus (marked by cones) and the west entrance (circle drive) doors if you parked on the west side of campus. Exterior and interior doors will be kept open and hand sanitizers will be available at all the entrances. Please wash your hands well before you come to worship.
4. As per current CDC guidelines, face covering will be required while in the church and during the worship service. We will have a mask for you to wear if you do not have one to bring. CDC guidelines state that children under two or anyone unable to remove their own mask should not wear them. For more information on this guideline, go to the CDC’s website at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus
5. Be careful in the parking lot, maintaining social distance at all times. Please try to park in every other spot
6. When you enter the church please take an information trifold off of the designated table and move directly to the seating section on the side of the building you entered. You will be directed by an elder. Refrain from socializing and wandering in the building. Only the entrance lobby and worship space will be open so please make use of a bathroom before you come for worship. Restrooms will be accessible but use should be avoided.
7. We will have designated areas where people can sit. Please sit only in the areas marked for seating. A specially trained elder will be there to answer questions. All current usher, greeter, counter, and elder teams are suspended until further notice.
8. Pastor will be up front before the service starts. He will verbally welcome you and help direct you to the seating areas. He will not be able to hug and handshake for now. We ask all worshippers to likewise refrain from handshakes and hugging for now.
9. The services will be planned to be about 30-35 minutes long. So please plan accordingly.
10. Offerings will be collected by placing them in a basket. There will be location in the back of the worship space to leave your contributions. We also encourage you to take advantage of the online giving opportunities or continue to mail in your offerings.



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11. At the end of each service we will direct you and your family to leave out through the side doors to go to your car. In order to be able to worship in the numbers allowed for safe distancing we are going to need your help. The worship service times are at Sunday 8:30 am and 10:00. The chairs will be sanitized in between services.

12. These will not be the Sunday schedules you have been used to. The first 3 or 4 weeks we will not be serving communion, and we are suspending our normal weekend in-person Bible Studies and Sunday School for the entire summer. As we get more acclimated to the new approach, phase two will reintroduce Communion (target date June 20-22 weekend), and in the meantime we will continue offering online bible study opportunities and family communion by appointment.