



June 19, 2020

Dear Family and Friends of St. Mark,

The COVID Response Team met this week to continue formulating rules and protocols for safely reopening the church building. We are currently working on and living into “Phase 1” of building reopening: establishing clear boundaries and procedures for these first steps in safely reopening. We will continue to work on the phases that follow, but for now we wanted to make sure we clearly communicate the expectations for the next few months.

Phase 1:

St. Mark Lutheran Church is committed to protecting the health, safety, and well-being of its employees, members, and greater community. The St. Mark building is not allowing in-person visitors at this time. Employees and volunteers will have access to the building only for necessary reasons (i.e.: Worship recording, counting offering, cleaning, etc.). St. Mark continues to follow the guidance of state and federal health officials to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Worship

- Worship is held online.
- Recording in the sanctuary is limited to critical elements of worship, while maintaining at least 6 ft of space between people.
- Life celebrations (weddings, funerals, baptisms) should be held to less than 10 in attendance and be able to maintain social distancing. Approval is required by the Pastor.

Drop-offs/Pick-ups

- A table in the entryway, just inside the first door, will be available for members to drop off or pick up any items, when necessary. Post-it notes and pens will be available to leave a note on items.

This procedure helps insure the safety of our staff as we limit the amount of people coming and going.

Activities on-site

- Office functions are limited to essential operations only (staff, council, worship musicians, counters, and property).
- Bible studies, small groups, and ministry teams of **less than 10** may consider meeting in person in the church parking lot and maintaining social distancing, or continuing to meet online. Please see below for expectations.
- Facility users/renters may be allowed, with approval and based on size, to meet in the church parking lot. Social distancing and public health measures will be enforced.

If groups decide to meet in person the following is required:

- The meeting **must** be scheduled and approved at least 24 hours in advance with our office manager, Tory: office@stmarkcp.org; 763-784-2558.
- Accurate attendance with contact information must be taken and reported back to Tory in a timely manner to have on record.
- The church building remains **closed**. You may not enter the building for tables, chairs, restroom use, making copies, getting coffee, etc. Everyone must bring their own chairs and items needed for the meeting.
- If these guidelines are not followed, we will need to go back to meeting online only.

The COVID Response Team and Council are working on and considering the following:

- A complete COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan for St. Mark Lutheran Church
- Drive-in Communion on Wednesday evenings
- Drive-in Sunday Worship

Please remember we all need to remain flexible and understanding as current information and guidelines are constantly changing. Our goal is to serve and protect our community the best we can, in the safest way possible.

As the body of Christ we will walk together through uncharted territory, holding on tight to the promises of love, justice, and peace for all of God's people!

In Peace,

St. Mark COVID Response Team