



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
328 George St.  
West Chicago, IL 60185

May 18, 2021

***“I thank You, my Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray You to keep me this day also from sin and all evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the Wicked Foe may have no power over me. Amen.”***

How many of you remember this prayer from Luther’s Small Catechism? Quite a few, I am sure. It is known as Luther’s Morning Prayer and it is a fitting prayer. As we come out of the long dark night of the Covid 19 pandemic it is good to give all thanks and praise to our gracious Heavenly Father who has kept us and who has brought us out of the darkness and into the light—not only the light of reduced restrictions, but the light of salvation that is ours in His Son, Jesus Christ.

To be certain, the pandemic is still around us and it is still dangerous. People continue to get sick and tragically, people continue to die. So caution and care for our brothers and sisters remains of utmost importance.

Here at Trinity, we are making some moves based on the new recommendations from the CDC and the anticipated announcement by the State of Illinois to reopen sometime in June.

Over the last few months and weeks, we have already taken small steps. We are no longer temping people as they come in the side door and we are opening the front door for entry once again. We have steadily increased our singing, both of hymns and within the liturgy.

Beginning Sunday, May 23rd, Pentecost Sunday, we will move to mask optional. That means you are welcome to continue wearing a mask, but it is not required. Masks will still be available as well as sanitizing equipment. We will also continue to have the pews separated and follow social distancing guidelines as we have over the course of the pandemic. The offering plate will continue to be in the back of the church and Communion will be practiced as we have been.

The following Sunday, May 30th, we will move to one service only. This will be at 9:30 a.m. As our attendance tends to be lower over the summer months, we will be able to maintain our social distancing practices as we come together again as one.

Once we hear the State of Illinois’ new guidelines coming in June, we will make additional moves. If they announce a full reopening as they have suggested, we will consider the following;

- Pew signs will come down
  - Sit where and with whom you like, respecting those who wish to maintain social distance
  - Return hymnals and Bibles to the pew racks
- Return to Communion at the altar rail
  - Pastor and Lay Assistant will continue to sanitize their hands prior to serving
  - We will reduce the number of people so as to not crowd the Communion rail
  - The Chalice will be offered again
  - The Host will continue to be dropped into the cupped hands of the Communicants
  - The individual cups will be placed on the credence table at the front of the aisle as before, but tongs will no longer be used. The cups will be spaced out and care is to be taken not to touch the surrounding cups
- Bring back the “Children’s Corner”

As the summer progresses, we will progress as a congregation also. We can look forward to a return to in-person Sunday School, in-person Bible Study (more on this to come!), Acolytes returning to assist, Joyful Noise returning to the chancel, in-person Spanish language services and more.

All this takes time to plan and put into motion, so I appreciate your patience and understanding. Above all, I appreciate your prayers and support over the course of this situation.

*Pastor Gaede*