



Messiah Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America www.messiahnh.org
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June 11, 2020

Dear Messiah Community,

It has been unsettling and difficult for all of us to adapt to the changes and restrictions the current COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to make. For our Messiah community, that has meant an end to our in-person worship and fellowship. We all share in mourning that distance. While we are currently seeing movement to re-open sectors of our economy, many of you have inquired about when and how we will resume worship at MLC. The short answer is we are not ready yet. The longer answer is that Council is weighing and considering all of the different recommendations and rules surrounding holding a worship service in conjunction with the clear goal of protecting the health and safety of our employees and membership. We must take the CDC, State of New Hampshire and Synod guidelines into consideration, understand them, interpret them, and figure out exactly how they apply to our particular congregation and building. This is no small task.

First and foremost, it is important to remember that “the church” is not the building. I often recount the song I learned as a child—“I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together...All who follow Jesus, all around the world, yes we’re the church together!” MLC is about faith and relationships! Council takes the reopening of our building very seriously.

We wish it were as simple as saying that we are open again to all get together. Unfortunately, it is not! There are many facts to consider and cautions to be taken. We, the council, want to ensure that all procedures are safe for ALL to take part in. We appreciate your patience with the steps that we are taking. Know that no decision is being made haphazardly but rather with prayerful thought and educated response.

Below you will find 2 links that we are using as resources to make decisions, one from the CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention), and one from the ELCA. (links to both are on the church web page as well) We will keep everyone informed of our decisions. We also must follow any state guidelines as applicable.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/index.html>

https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Returning_to_In-person_Worship.pdf?_ga=2.186347819.30594746.1591881204-792298262.1591881204

Continued prayers for our church, leaders, nations and world are essential. Please continue to keep in touch with each other via social media, zoom, email, cards, phone calls, etc. to maintain the blessed relationships that we have.

Sincerely in Christ for MLC Council,

Michelle and Deanna

Faith, hope, love... and the greatest of these is love - First Corinthians 13:13