

Dear Members and Friends,

As we continue to carefully monitor the new cases of coronavirus reported daily in Northampton County, church leadership continues to prepare for the steps that will be necessary to reopen Christ Lutheran. We want to keep you updated on what you can expect in the next phase with regard to the church and learning center. While we know that the reopening of the church will likely become possible once we enter the “yellow phase”, as outlined in Governor Wolf’s Plan for Pennsylvania, we want you to know that we will only do so when we can ensure the safety of all members & staff. As many of our members are in the age group that is considered more vulnerable, we recognize that this reopening may not occur immediately following the move to the “yellow phase”. Physical distancing, sanitizing frequently, particularly between services, providing additional services, having services outside and streaming church services are all being discussed. Once we begin in-person services, we want to ensure that everyone can participate, including those that may still want to maintain physical distance or prefer to remain in their home on Sunday mornings. Additionally, the Worship and Music Ministry Team has appointed a task force in response to the current pandemic. The group’s goal is to develop and implement policies for each area of the church to ensure the safety of both the members and staff as more people gradually return. Relying on federal and state guidelines, along with advice from the CDC, WHO and PA Dept of Health, the task force is working on assembling a list of protocols and procedures for each area to follow as we transition into a much-anticipated gradual reopening of facilities.

While the opening of the church is delayed, the reopening of the Learning Center is not. We have applied for & received a waiver from the state which allows the Learning Center to open for the children of essential workers, beginning Tuesday, May 26th. Erica Knowles, our Director, is confident that we can open the Learning Center safely, following the direction of the CDC and PA Dept of Health, and maintain an environment that will be safe for the children & teachers. Although we expect between 20-25 students to be eligible and enrolled, we hope to be able to open enrollment to more children once we move to the “yellow phase”.

Financially, we are in good shape and remain confident that we can survive this pandemic. As mentioned previously, we applied for & received the PPP forgivable loan proceeds from the federal government. This allows us to continue to pay all our employees for at least the next 8 weeks & this amount of \$126,000 will be forgiven after doing so. Additionally, contributions from members, particularly electronic giving, has continued. Although the level of giving is reduced, we remain grateful to everyone for giving what they can to help ensure the survival of Christ Lutheran during these difficult times. With that said, we realize that no one knows what the long-term financial effects of this pandemic will be for the church, so please continue to give what you can.

During these times that we will likely never experience again, we hope you are enjoying some positive experiences. Whether it is extra family time, reading a great book, playing games or simply enjoying much needed quiet time, we hope you are finding ways to bring yourself joy! Please stay safe and don’t hesitate to contact us if you need any help, or just want to talk.

Thank you for all you do to sustain the mission we share at Christ Lutheran!

Sincerely,



Phil Spohn, Pastor



Chris Myers, Council President