

***“I was glad when they said unto me,
Let us go into the house of the LORD.”***

Psalm 122:1 (KJV)

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

The great news is that we are making all the needed arrangements so that we can begin worshipping together in our Sanctuary! This is something that I am sure all of us have missed and are eagerly awaiting.

Our Church Council has voted that our first public worship service back together in our Sanctuary will be at 10:00am on **Sunday, June 7th, 2020**. We will celebrate Holy Communion in the month of June on Sunday, June 14th. Our Worship Committee has received lots of great information from other congregations and religious organizations, along with information from our government officials. Based on all of their learning, they have worked hard to put together our **“New Guidelines for Re-Opening at FELC.”** Important information for all of you to read before Sunday, June 7th will be found printed below in the two documents that our Worship Committee have created.

While we place a high priority on gathering together as the church for worship and other activities, and we always want you to feel like family at First English Lutheran, if you are feeling sick or running a fever, the best way that you can love your neighbor is by staying home! If you need to stay home instead of coming to our worship service, we encourage you to worship through our Facebook broadcast.

Admittedly, life back together will look and feel different. But this is the safest way that we can reopen and still do what is needed to protect one another.

I am so looking forward to seeing all of you again and worshipping together!

Together In Christ’s Love!

Pastor Paul

WHAT PRECAUTIONS IS FELC TAKING TO MAKE OUR WORSHIP SERVICES AS SAFE AS POSSIBLE?

FELC is taking extra precautions at this time. We will need everyone's cooperation and participation to protect our worshipping community. These Guidelines Include:

- Everyone is asked to take their temperature before coming to worship. If you are running a temperature or are in any way not feeling well, stay at home.
- Masks – Everyone (age 5 and older) is asked to wear a mask. If you do not have a mask, one will be provided. (Worship Leaders serving in the chancel area will not have masks while leading worship, but will be observing the social distancing requirements of at least 6 feet.)
- Everyone is required to use hand sanitizer upon entering the building.
- We will be wiping down all common area touch points (e.g., doors, light switches, countertops.) before and after every worship service.
- To eliminate surfaces that may be touched by multiple persons, we will not be handing-out Worship Bulletins. However, Worship Bulletins will be available by clicking on the Link on our church's Facebook Page in advance of the service. This will allow you to print them at home and bring your own with you.
- We ask that worshippers NOT use the Hymnals and Bibles in the pew racks. Cleaning these books will permanently damage their covers. All materials for worship will be projected on the screens.
- During the Service, children will not be coming forward for the Children's Sermon, but remaining in their pews with their families.
- For "The Passing of The Peace" we will not be leaving our places in our pews or shaking hands or hugging (unless you are seated with your immediate family).
- We will not be passing the Offering Plates. Instead a large wooden Offering Box will be positioned at the entrance into the Sanctuary for the giving of your Tithes, Offerings and Sacrifices.
- We will be using a safer way to serve Holy Communion through pre-packaged elements. They will be available on Communion Sundays, spaced-out on a table in the Church Narthex. Please pick up one per communicant before entering the Sanctuary, being careful not to touch any adjacent communion packages.
- Upon entering the Sanctuary, please go directly to where you plan to be seated. Family groups may sit together. Otherwise all family groups or individuals should be seated at least 6 feet apart. We will be sitting in every 3rd row of pews. Please make use of the balcony seating to make better use of our large sanctuary.
- At the end of the Service, the ushers will release worshippers by pews, starting from the back of the Sanctuary. Please move to the exit doors without stopping in the Narthex.
- Please pass directly through the church Narthex before and after the Worship Service. We will NOT be gathering in this space for coffee fellowship & conversation. If you need to speak with the Pastor, please contact him by phone or text. You may hold conversations with your friends in the church parking lot but maintain at least the required 6 feet of social distancing.

SHOULD PEOPLE COME TO FELC IF THEY ARE FEELING SICK?

While we place a high priority on gathering together as the church for worship and other activities, and we always want you to feel like family at First English Lutheran, if you are feeling sick or running a fever, the best way that you can love your neighbor is by staying home! If you need to stay home instead of coming to our worship service, we encourage you to worship through our Facebook broadcast.

WHEN WILL WE REOPEN?

With our recommended precautions mentioned above, we are planning to reopen on **Sunday, June 7th**. However, as this situation continues to be fluid, we will keep you informed of any changes or recommendations from our government and medical officials.

While First English Lutheran Church is taking every precaution to prevent the spread of Covid-19, we cannot guarantee that you will not become infected. Attending services may increase your risk of contracting Covid-19, especially if you are over 65 years old or have an underlying health condition. By entering, you voluntarily assume this increased risk of exposure or potential infection with Covid-19.

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
GUIDELINES for COVID-19
Effective June 7th, 2020

Do Not Enter If:

- You Have symptoms of or currently have Covid-19.
- You are a healthcare professional who cares for Covid-19 patients.
- You have been exposed to or are caring for those with Covid-19.
- You are especially vulnerable to Covid-19 due to age or an underlying medical condition.
- You have attended any crowded events/ parties/ other public gatherings where social distancing and safety precautions are not in place within the last 14 days.

Upon Entering:

- Cleanse your hands with the provided hand sanitizer and maintain 6' social distancing at all times.
- Wear a mask (children under 5 years old are not required to wear masks).
- Pass directly through the Church Narthex and proceed to your pew. Please remain in your pew during the service.
- Depart promptly after the service, maintaining social distancing protocols.

Caution:

According to the CDC, older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions might be at higher risk for severe illness from Covid-19 including:

- People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
- People who have serious heart conditions
- People who are immunocompromised
- People with severe obesity
- People with diabetes
- People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
- People with liver disease

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