



THE CHURCH ON THE HIGHWAY

Where Life and Jesus Intersect

St. Paul Lutheran Church

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April 29, 2020

A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KRUEGER A PHASE IN PLAN FOR BACK TO ONSITE WORSHIP AT ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH For May 2020

WHY A PHASE IN PLAN:

Monday, April 27, 2020, Governor Abbott outlined a plan that included phases for opening the State of Texas back into more work opportunities and other areas of life, including churches and houses of worship. Some of the pertinent points regarding churches were, as follows (click here to see full report):

- Strongly encourage the at-risk population to watch or participate in the service remotely.
At-risk population are those who are 65 or older, especially those with chronic lung disease; moderate to severe asthma; chronic heart disease; severe obesity; diabetes; chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis; liver disease; or weakened immune system.)
 - Designate an area inside the facility reserved for the at-risk population, or offer a service for at-risk population attendees only.
- Ensure proper spacing between attendees:
 - Keep at least two empty seats (or six feet separation) between parties in any row, except as follows:
Two or more members of the same household can sit adjacent to one another, with two seats (or six feet separation) empty on either side.
 - Two individuals who are not members of the same household but who are attending together can sit adjacent to one another, with two seats (or six feet separation) empty on either side.
 - Alternate rows between attendees (every other row left empty).
- If you are sick, stay home and seek medical help.

With these guidelines from Governor Abbott now in place, the plan detailed below is being put in place for May 2020 to begin phasing back in on-site worship at St. Paul Lutheran Church. The plan takes into consideration the aforementioned guidelines for churches. The St. Paul plan does apply the six feet minimum separation for people in the same pew and for rows between attendees. *(At St. Paul, in order to accommodate safely the six feet separation between rows, we have to leave two rows empty between attendees because six feet was not achieved by one row left empty. We are being cautious.)* These measurements have been used to calculate the 20 family unit worship limits noted in the plan detailed below.

SPECIAL NOTES FOR THE ST. PAUL PHASE IN PLAN FOR MAY 2020:

- In accord with "Open Texas recommendations," those over 65 and those who are in the high risk categories as defined above are please asked to remain safely at home and to continue the practice of livestreaming worship **on Sunday mornings**. See plan below for Senior Adults Only service on Wednesday, May 13, 2020.
- Registration for onsite worship is on a first come-first served basis. Those who have opportunity to register and attend onsite services earlier in the month are asked to extend courtesy toward others to register and attend services later in the month.
- Those who attend onsite worship services, including the Senior Adults service, are asked to please wear masks for the safety of themselves and for the safety of others. Please practice safe distancing guidelines when entering and exiting the church. Hand sanitizer will be available.
- For settings of Holy Communion, pastors and assisting elders will wear masks and gloves. Individual cups only will be used for distribution.
- No balcony seating will be allowed for the onsite services, except for immediate family members of those providing music or A/V support.)
- Please note that the safest alternative for worship during this time is still to follow the livestream services. As much as we would LOVE to have everybody in worship at the church building, we do want everybody to be safe and make wise decisions regarding the health and well-being of one's self and of one another.
- Finally, in all circumstances, if you are sick or feel like you may have symptoms of COVID-19, please stay home and seek medical assistance.

THE PHASE IN PLAN FOR BACK TO ONSITE WORSHIP AT ST. PAUL FOR MAY 2020

Sunday, May 3, 2020 – Maintain the plan originally adopted by the Board of Directors of livestream worship only through May 3 and ADD Drive Thru Communion following the 10:30 am Livestream Online Worship Service

- 10:30 am – Livestream Online Worship Service
- 11:30 am-12:45 pm – Drive Thru Communion on the St. Paul church parking lot

Sunday, May 10, 2020 – Start On-site worship with limited attendance to accommodate Safe Distancing in accord with current Safe Distancing Guidelines. No Holy Communion on this Sunday.

- 8:00 am – On-site worship with 20 family units in attendance. **Families will need to register on the Website beginning Monday morning May 4, at 10:00 am.** When 20 family units have registered, registration will be closed. Seating may be assigned to ensure safe distancing, as necessary.
- 9:15 am – Clean sanctuary and restrooms to prepare for 10:30 worship service.
- 10:30 am – Livestream online worship AND On-site worship with 20 family units in attendance. **Families will need to register on the Website beginning Monday morning May 4, at 10:00 am.** When 20 family units have registered, registration will be closed. Seating may be assigned to ensure safe distancing, as necessary.

Wednesday, May 13, 2020 – SENIOR ADULTS ONLY Service of the Sacrament

- 11:00 am – Senior adults only special service of the Sacrament (Holy Communion) with 20 family units at a time. If more than 20 family units come, the service will be repeated to accommodate all who come. This will be an abbreviated service (with no sermon) for the purpose of Holy Communion. **No registration is required for this service.**

Sunday, May 17, 2020 – On-site worship with limited attendance to accommodate Safe Distancing in accord with current Safe Distancing Guidelines. Holy Communion will be offered on this Sunday.

- 8:00 am – On-site worship with Holy Communion with 20 family units in attendance. **Families will need to register on the church Website beginning Monday morning May 11 at 10:00 am.** When 20 family units have registered, registration will be closed. Seating may be assigned to ensure safe distancing, as necessary.
- 9:15 am – Clean sanctuary and restrooms to prepare for 10:30 worship service.
- 10:30 am – Livestream online worship AND On-site worship with Holy Communion with 20 family units in attendance. **Families will need to register on the church Website beginning Monday morning May 11 at 10:00 am.** When 20 family units have registered, registration will be closed. Seating may be assigned to ensure safe distancing, as necessary.
- 11:30 am-12:45 pm – Drive Thru Communion on the church parking lot for those who do not attend onsite worship

Sunday, May 24, 2020 – On-site worship with limited attendance to accommodate Safe Distancing in accord with current Safe Distancing Guidelines. No Holy Communion on this Sunday.

- 8:00 am – On-site worship with 20 family units in attendance. **Families will need to register on the Website beginning Monday morning May 18 at 10:00 am.** When 20 family units have registered, registration will be closed. Seating may be assigned to ensure safe distancing, as necessary.
- 9:15 am – Clean sanctuary and restrooms to prepare for 10:30 worship service.
- 10:30 am – Livestream online worship AND On-site worship with 20 family units in attendance. **Families will need to register on the Website beginning Monday morning May 18 at 10:00 am.** When 20 family units have registered, registration will be closed. Seating may be assigned to ensure safe distancing, as necessary.

Sunday, May 31, 2020 – On-site worship with limited attendance to accommodate Safe Distancing in accord with current Safe Distancing Guidelines. No Holy Communion on this Sunday.

- 8:00 am – On-site worship with 20 family units in attendance. **Families will need to register on the Website beginning Monday morning May 25 at 10:00 am.** When 20 family units have registered, registration will be closed. Seating may be assigned to ensure safe distancing, as necessary.
- 9:15 am – Clean sanctuary and restrooms to prepare for 10:30 worship service.
- 10:30 am – Livestream online worship AND On-site worship with 20 family units in attendance. **Families will need to register on the Website beginning Monday morning May 25 at 10:00 am.** When 20 family units have registered, registration will be closed. Seating may be assigned to ensure safe distancing, as necessary.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS PLAN IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE SHOULD IT BE DEEMED NECESSARY FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR WORSHIP ATTENDEES OR BY NEW PROTOCOLS THAT MAY BE PUT IN PLACE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS.