

Dear Members of CLC:

Grace and peace to you from our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

It is with great excitement that we announce that worship will resume inside our Church home beginning on Sunday, November 1 at 10:00 a.m. -- which is All Saints' Day. As with our Christ On the Corner #parkinglotservice, it will be a combined liturgy incorporating the best of our traditional and contemporary sources. It will be very good to be together in worship again. We will also be keeping our FM Transmitter live for those who wish to remain in the parking lot and our YouTube videos for those who are at home.

Because of the COVID-19 virus, worship will be different. Pastor Justin is reminded of how Buzz Aldrin – the second person to walk on the Moon – brought with him a small plastic container of wine and some bread from Webster Presbyterian Church where he was an elder. He later reflected, "I poured the wine into the chalice our church had given me. In the one-sixth gravity of the moon the wine curled slowly and gracefully up the side of the cup. It was interesting to think that the very first liquid ever poured on the moon, and the first food eaten there, were communion elements." He also added that he read from the Gospel according to John to celebrate this worship experience before he and Neil Armstrong walked on the moon.

In a strange way, our meeting again for worship indoors will be like worshiping God on the moon. We will need to make changes to our work to keep people as safe as possible, and change is not easy. We will wear masks; we will practice social distancing; and we will not follow practices which may spread the virus. A CLC action team continues to meet since the outbreak began which has led us through unfamiliar and uncharted paths. This action team's list of many of these changes is included on the reverse side of this paper for us to prepare for November 1.

The Good News is that the heart of our worship will remain the same. We will find forgiveness, we will hear the Gospel, and we will experience the joy of being a Christian each week at CLC. While we will not celebrate Holy Communion at first, it is our fervent hope that we can resume Holy Communion in a few weeks by the season of Advent. We will also need to abstain from many of the "normal" church activities such as sharing the peace and holding fellowship after worship.

There are ways you can help. Simply put, we need volunteers and in some areas, we need them desperately. Sound technicians and people to substitute for the video recordings are sorely needed. So if you are willing to help in these or other areas, please contact either of us or one of our volunteer coordinators as found in the weekly announcement page.

The other Good News is that after these changes we will change again. There will be a time when we remember COVID-19 as history. We will look back at the infection rates, the number of deaths, and the measures we had to take for safety during this time all as a part of what makes us strong as the Body of Christ. God is more powerful than any virus, and we get to be a part of God's plan in worship and beyond.

Thank you for your commitment to Christ Lutheran Church and for sharing this journey with us together. We welcome any questions or comments you may have.

Yours in Christ,

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