



COVID-19 Update: June 16, 2020

Last Thursday, June 11, Missouri Governor Mike Parsons announced the State would move into Phase 2 of its recovery plan on Tuesday, June 16. According to the governor, in Phase 2, there will be no statewide public health order. In consultation with local officials, we learned neither Lafayette County nor the City of Concordia would implement any local restrictions. As a result, our congregation's leaders have decided to take the next step in our reopening plan.

Beginning Sunday, June 21, we will resume our normal worship and communion schedule.

Sunday morning services will be held at 8:00 and 10:30 am, and services will be held the second and fourth Monday of the month at 7 pm. In line with Phase 2 of the State's recovery plan, there will be no limitations to the size of our gatherings.

Even as we take this step, ***we will maintain certain precautions:***

- Please register your attendance each week using the SignUpGenius link provided the Tuesday prior to worship or call the church office to notify us of your intention to attend. (This is our method of recording our attendance, as we will not pass the friendship folders in each pew.)
- Only select pews will be used in order to maintain the recommended social distancing.
- Worshipers may wear masks if they prefer to do so.
- Single-use bulletins will contain the full order of service, including hymns. (You may bring your own hymnal to use in worship.)
- Offering plates are placed at each door.
- Communion distribution will be single line, continuous-flow.
- Disposable individual cups will be used for communion; we will not offer the common cup.
- Although handshaking is discouraged, pastors will greet worshipers after the service.
- We will sanitize the sanctuary between services.

Thank you for working with us and adapting with us as we resume a more normal worship pattern while continuing to implement measures to avoid or lessen the spread of the coronavirus. These precautions are in place until further notice, and our Board of Elders will monitor the situation to decide when any adjustments will be made.

Those who might prefer a smaller gathering are encouraged to attend the Monday night service. Pastors will wear masks for communion distribution only at the Monday night service.

It is a good idea to stay home from church if you are not feeling well; this is true all the time, not only during a global pandemic. If you are considered "high risk" for COVID-19 or do not yet

feel comfortable returning to in-person worship, please continue to join us for our service livestream Sundays at 8:00 and 10:30 am or on-demand anytime, anywhere at stpaulsconcordia.org.

No Sunday school or adult Bible class will be offered at this time. We will announce a restart date in the future.

The Good Shepherd Care Community (GSCC) is still closed to visitors, so no worship or other ministry activities will resume there at this time. We await word from the GSCC administration as to when they can safely allow visitors into the facility, and we pray for guidance as they make decisions for the health and wellbeing of the residents and staff.

COVID-19 is not over yet. Cases of the virus continue to rise locally, statewide, and throughout the country. As we take steps to reopen in-person ministries, we remain cautious even as we are confident, trusting in God's grace and relying on God-given wisdom and judgment. ***Our goal is, as it has been, to faithfully receive God's grace in Christ as well as faithfully demonstrate Christ-like compassion and love to one another and this community we are called to serve.***

Please share this information with those you know who do not have internet access.

"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD!'" (Psalm 122:1 ESV). It has been wonderful to gather again with you in the sanctuary over the last several weeks for our brief services of Holy Communion. We look forward to seeing you soon in the house of the Lord.

The Lord be with you.

Rev. Michael Pottschmidt
Senior Pastor

Rev. Andrew Lehenbauer
Associate Pastor

Preaching. Teaching. Reaching.

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