

Pastor's May Zealant 2020

Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ! Amen! Sure has been a while since I've been able to say those comforting words to you in worship....

Worship. Once again, I have initiated a change in how we'll do things with regard to the Divine Service. I will follow a model being done right now among many other Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod churches during our governor's 'stay at home' order. In a letter of encouragement from a good friend of mine at the Indiana District Office of the LC-MS, Geoff gave us pastors of the District comforting reminders of first, we too are forgiven our sins as our transgressions are covered by the Atonement completed upon the Cross. And so are you! But this Good News of forgiveness needs to be heard, and exercising a great deal of patience, it is time we 'get with it' and share this love God has for everyone.

Jesus said, **“Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.”** (Jn 6:26–27). Effective immediately, I will provide Confession, Absolution, and Holy Communion to individuals and groups of 9 or less. I only ask you call/text/email/send carrier pigeon to let me know when you'd like to partake of this blessed Meal. We'll do this at the church; in as clean environment we can; and we will remain “contactless” throughout.

How we will do so: I will have set up in the Narthex a table with Communion ware upon it. They will be prepared in as sterile a condition as I myself can do. For the proper Consecration of the host and wine it is right that they be uncovered while the Words are spoken. I will then back away and instruct you to come forward and take and eat; take drink... and then I will speak the Dismissal and Benediction.

We will soon return to worship inside our beautiful Sanctuary. And when we do, it will be different than before. We'll likely not have Sunday School at first. Sitting in the Sanctuary will be kind of assigned seating, sorry – but we'll have to use the front pews! (lol) And we may have to limit the number of folks at first too. I would also enjoy conducting this worship during the week too. WE WILL continue to praise God for His many blessings through worship of singing and hearing of the Holy Word of God.

I pray everyone, come. Come and take part of the benefits of Christ's true body and blood for the increase of your faith; the assurance of Christ having defeating sin, death, and hell.

Stay safe, remain healthy, and I will see you soon!

Pastor Phil Rittner

p.s. Don't forget Drive In Church Sunday, May 3rd at 11:00 AM. Tune to 107.1 FM!