



ABIDING CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Pastor Craig Fourman and Pastor June Fryman

May 20, 2020

Dear Abiding Christ Family,

We, your pastors, along with our deacons, staff, and council, thank you for your prayers and patience during this unprecedented time. We are grateful for the gifts that God has given us as a community of faith to be able to adapt to the quick changes that were made in the way we normally worship and participate in ministry. Your attentiveness, affirmation, and generous support, along with our LSIM collaborative, have enabled us to continue ACLC's mission in new and creative ways. Thank you for the partnership we all share in proclaiming God's good news through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Your church leaders have been meeting regularly to monitor the coronavirus and its effect on our potential in-person worship. Along with monitoring the situation, we have been preparing, planning, and designing what attending a worship service will be like. ***We voted at our last meeting on May 18th to set June 7th as our target date for in-person worship under the conditions that there are no changes made by the state of Ohio, the CDC, or our synod and ELCA guidelines.*** That said, there are many protocols that will be followed to make our gathering for worship as safe as possible for all who attend.

The following protocols were thoroughly discussed and approved at that meeting, and we want you to be informed and prepared if you decide to join us for in-person worship. ***If you have any reservation about attending worship in person, if you have not been feeling well, or if you have any underlying health issues, you are strongly encouraged to stay home.*** Our on-line worship service will still be available on Sunday mornings.

We must stress that there is no 100% safe way to do in person worship or prepare and administer Holy Communion. These protocols are our best attempt to mitigate as many risks as possible for the safety of all who attend. If you plan to attend worship beginning June 7th, here are some things you will need to do:

- 1) Using the “Sign-Up Genius” link that will be emailed to you, add your name to the worship service you wish to attend. There will be 50 spaces each for the following times and places:
 - a. 8:30am Sanctuary
 - b. 8:30am Meister Hall
 - c. 11:00am Sanctuary
 - d. 11:00am Meister Hall

If your first choice is already filled, you will need to select another option. If you do not have email or internet, you will need to call the office (878-2888) and ask Joyce to make your selection for you.

- 2) Depending on your chosen worship space, you will have a designated parking area. Arrive no sooner than 15 minutes before worship begins. (*More details are provided in the council approved protocols listed below.*)
- 3) Wear a face mask or face covering. If you do not have one or forgot it, one will be provided at the entry door.
- 4) Attendance will be taken at the entry door.
- 5) Offering plates will be stationed at the entrance of the worship area.
- 6) Please use the hand sanitizer provided at the entrance of the worship area.
- 7) Seating is arranged for cohabitating family groups, couples, and individuals; please choose a seat accordingly.
- 8) Designated restrooms will be open for each worship area.
- 9) Holy Communion in “*one kind*” will be offered to those who desire to receive it.
 - a. At the appropriate time, follow the direction of the usher, and maintain 6’ physical distance.
 - b. “Cradle” your hand to RECEIVE the communion wafer as “*the body and blood of Christ.*”
 - c. Step to the side, remove your mask carefully, and then partake of the sacrament.
 - d. Replace your mask and return to your seat.
- 10) Following the benediction, depart in peace, maintaining 6’ distancing.
- 11) If you brought your offering but did not place it in the offering plate upon entering, you may do so as you leave.

- 12) Please use hand sanitizer as you exit the worship area.
- 13) Please exit the building so that the cleaning and sanitizing of the area may begin.

These are some of the protocols with expanded details that we have in place for returning to in person worship. Please remember that these have been thoroughly discussed by the pastors, deacons, staff, and council members and were approved during our May 18th council meeting. The complete document is listed below and will be on file to be compliant with insurance regulations.

Again, we thank you for your prayers and patience. We miss you and are praying for you. May God's peace be with you always.

Together in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Pastor June Fryman and Pastor Craig Fourman

WORSHIP

“We wish to stress that there is no 100% safe way to do in-person worship or to prepare and administer Holy Communion.” (ELCA/Southern Ohio Synod guidelines for opening in-person worship, 5/14/2020)

To open the church to in-person worship, ACLC is following CDC, State of Ohio and ELCA guidelines for the safety of all persons. It is important each person attending service does the same for the protection of themselves and others. We also know the safest option for everyone is to continue stay-at-home practices and virtual worship is also available.

2 services (target date June 7th, 2020)

8:30 Sanctuary & Meister Hall

11:00 Sanctuary & Meister Hall

General Protocols

- Staff to park in front lot north of office entry (office doors to be kept locked at all times.)
- Building will have barriers between north and south
- Educational area and bathrooms will be cordoned off for time being.
- Attendees will need to go online to register for a service. There will be a strict 50-person limit for both areas.
- Fellowship is discouraged, no drink or food will be provided for the time being, we discourage the bringing of food or drink to worship (except for medical reasons).
- Arrive no sooner than 15 minutes before worship begins and leave no later than 15 minutes after worship ends to allow time for proper cleaning and transition.
- Every other bathroom stall/urinal will be taped off for safety.
- Water Fountains will be covered.
- The sanctuary service will be livestreamed into Meister Hall, communion will be distributed by a pastor live.
- Staff strongly recommends the wearing of face masks or face covering (bandana).
- Part of the building will be available for use to staff only.

Sanctuary protocols

- Parking in the front lot only
- Entry and exit by main sanctuary doors only
- Concierge at doors (in air lock) to take names and contact info for Anyone not pre-registering
- Sanctuary divided into 2 sides; one for family groupings and one individual/couples
- Masks or face coverings are strongly recommended when gathering
- Social distancing will be required (6-foot radius)
- Bathrooms will be available and clearly marked.

Meister Hall Protocols

- Parking in back lot only
- Entry and exit by Meister Hall Doors only
- Concierge at doors (in air lock) to take names and contact info for anyone not pre-registering
- Meister Hall divided into 2 sides; one for family groupings and one individual/couples
- Masks or face coverings are strongly recommended when in large gathering
- Social distancing will be required (6-foot radius)
- Bathrooms will be available and clearly marked.

Other worship protocols:

- One pastor preaches the other presides
- Communion prep by one person only
- Communion in one kind (wafer) only, NO GLOVES TO BE USED
- Offering plates and extra giving envelopes available at door
- No paper bulletins, any weekly announcements needed will be made available for pickup at the exits
- Volunteers (3-4) needed to disinfect areas between worship, Lakeysha Hicks and Tony Errett to supervise and inspect areas between services (Lakeysha on station 9:30 – 11:00 to clean.) All cleaning will be documented using a checklist.

Approved by Church Council

May 18, 2020