



Dear Members and Friends of the Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit,

As COVID-19 continues to pose a global public health risk and impacts our ability to safely gather, Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit remains faithful to carrying out our mission in ways that reflect our commitment to vibrant worship, engaging faith formation, inclusive ministry where all are welcome and a strong desire to serve the needs of our community and the world. We also remain committed to the Christian calling to love our neighbor by taking action to limit the spread of COVID-19.

### **What is happening now?**

- **We continue to digitally offer Family Worship at 9:00 am Sunday and Spirit Worship at 10:00 am Sunday** on Zoom and Facebook Live. These formats, while limited are the safest way to gather and are needed by many, remain our primary way to worship until the spread of COVID-19 is mitigated.
- **Center for Faith and Life** gatherings are being held digitally on Zoom each Sunday at 11:00 am.
- **Many online worship, devotional and faith formation resources** are listed on our church website.
- **Mid-Week Connections** will resume on Wednesdays at 7 pm. Beginning on Nov. 4. Other connection times will be held Nov. 11, Dec 2 and December 16.
- **Our Nursery School uses the church facilities every morning Monday**

**through Friday until noon.** Selected outside groups are also making use of our building at other times.

- **Thanksgiving Services** will be held on Nov. 25 at noon and at 7 pm on Zoom.
- **The sanctuary will be open for individual prayer on All Saints Day** (November 1, by appointment only.) The Memorial Garden is always open for prayer and reflection.
- **All Saints Requiem Concert** will be offered on Zoom at 4 pm on November 1.
- We are hoping to form **intentional digital small groups** called “**Circles of Friends Online**”. The groups would gather and connect regularly for devotions, sharing and prayer. We are looking for a few individuals who would serve as small group conveners. If you are interested in either being a convener or a participant please contact Nikki at the church office.
- **Rejoicing Spirits Worship will be offered on the second Sunday of each month on Zoom** at 2:30 pm. The Rejoicers also gather on the fourth Sunday for connections, fun and learning; also at 2:30 pm.
- **Pots, Pans and Praise will be offered on Saturday, December 5 at 10 am in the sanctuary.** Children (5th grade and younger) and their parents are encouraged to gather their pot, pans and wooden spoons to attend this fun time of percussion music. **Children can also pick up their Advent craft packets that day.** Please wear masks, COVID 19 waivers will be required. Watch for sign up soon.
- **Outdoor Picnic and Prayer services** are suspended as the weather is turning colder.
- **In-person Sunday morning worship services remain suspended until further notice** as we monitor COVID-19 guidance, potential increased risk with a second wave, and efforts by local school districts to reopen. The indoor Prayer Service scheduled for Oct 28 has been cancelled due to concerns over safety of staff and worshippers over rising numbers of covid infections. The November indoor Thanksgiving Prayer service will be considered over the next few weeks.

**What will Christmas be like?** We are planning to offer **three Christmas Eve Experiences:**

- **Family Christmas Eve Worship at 3 pm** on Zoom and Facebook Live. This service will be aimed at our youngest worshippers and their families.
- **Outdoor Christmas Eve Worship on the church grounds gathered around a fire at 6 pm.** A short service featuring a live nativity, retelling the Christmas story, special music by the handbell choir, and a candlelight humming of “Silent Night” by all.
- **Spirit Christmas Eve Worship at 9:00 pm** on Zoom and Facebook Live; incorporating many of the traditional aspects of Christmas Eve worship.