



TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

8781 Brunswick Rd, Minocqua, WI 54548

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www.trinityminocqua.org

May 20, 2020

Dear Trinity Lutheran Family,

On Wednesday, May 13th, the Wisconsin Supreme Court overturned the “Safer at Home” order. On Friday, May 15th, the Oneida County Health Department issued updated local guidelines which allow for carefully arranged gatherings of up to 50 people. In addition, our Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod’s district praesidium approves of our churches finding safe ways to reopen for public worship as long as we are abiding by local statutes and recommendations.

Your pastor and elders have engaged in extensive discussions about resuming in-person worship. What follows is our **plan to reopen on Sunday, May 31st (and Monday, June 1st)**. Here are some initial assumptions and encouragements:

- It is our understanding that the risks involved with the Covid-19 outbreak are substantial enough to provide extra safety measures for our public gatherings as we reopen for in person worship.
- We understand that each individual will have different comfort levels about attending worship.
- We will continue to offer online services for at-home worship and respect a person’s choice to stay home.
- We will also appreciate attendees’ efforts to respect and follow the measures set forth below as the recommended best practices for mitigating the spread of disease in church gatherings.
- ***We strongly encourage older adults and people of any age who are “at risk,” i.e., have serious underlying medical conditions, to remain at home. We’re not forbidding you to attend! We’re simply and lovingly asking you in the strongest possible terms to consider the risks and to exercise abundant caution!***
- In the end, this is about Jesus! We want to honor and glorify him in all we do and say. In Jesus, we will show love to one another as we continue to navigate through these challenging times.

Schedule

Beginning the weekend of Sunday May 31st, our schedule will be as follows:

- Sunday, 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
- Monday, 6:30 p.m.

Registration for Worship

In keeping with Health Department guidelines to keep gatherings under 50, we ask you to register for worship. Please indicate which service you wish to attend and the number of attendees. When services “fill up,” we will encourage you to attend one of the other options. If needed, we may add another service. Please communicate with us in one of the following ways:

- ⇒ stephenluchterhand@gmail.com (Pastor’s email)
- ⇒ trinity@trinityminocqua.org (Church email)
- ⇒ 715-356-2255 (Church Office)
- ⇒ 602-377-0940 (Pastor’s Cell, call or text)

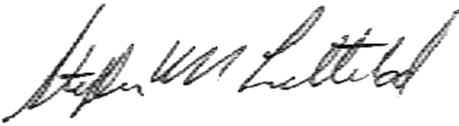
*“Our mission at Trinity Lutheran Church is to teach the Word of God,
to train believers for lives of Christian service,
and to tell the good news of Jesus Christ to the Northwoods community and to the world.”*

Safety Precautions

1. Our facility has been thoroughly cleaned and sanitized. After each service, pews and other frequently touched surfaces will be wiped down with disinfectants.
2. Doors will be open to avoid repeated touch
3. Masks will be encouraged but not required.
4. No hymnals/Bibles; Bulletins will be available for pickup. Please take with you
5. Offering plates will be placed at the entrance to the sanctuary
6. We will not invite children to the front of the church for a children's message, but will seek to implement some sort of message for children while all remain in their seats
7. Practice social distancing; refrain from handshaking and hugging; families will sit 6 feet apart every other pew; Pews will be marked for approximate seating positions
8. Hand sanitizer is available, but supplies are limited. Bring your own, if you are able. Donations of sanitizer and disinfectant wipes are welcome at this time.
9. Holy Communion will be celebrated according to our regular schedule (1st, 3rd, 5th weekends of each month). Our first opportunity for the Sacrament will be May 31st.
 - Holy Communion will be celebrated in as contact-free a way as possible
 - If you are uncomfortable receiving the Sacrament in a larger gathering and wish to refrain, understanding and empathy will be extended; private communion is available
10. No fellowship treats or coffee will be available at this time.
11. As you leave, please refrain from gathering in groups in the fellowship hall or the welcome center; do enjoy conversations with one another while practicing social distancing guidelines and making use of the outdoors as possible

Again, online worship will continue to be available! If you are "at risk" and/or are not comfortable attending or communing in a larger gathering, you can expect understanding and empathy and continued spiritual encouragement through Word and Sacrament. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out to pastor or one of the elders listed below.

The Lord continue to keep you in his gracious care,



Pastor Stephen Luchterhand

Elders: Bob Butzer, Tom Driscoll, Matt Kock, Melvin Schwark, Terry Stake, Jake Strasburg