



## St. Peter's Lutheran Church

530 South Victoria St

St. Paul, MN 55102

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[www.saintpeterslutheranchurch.com](http://www.saintpeterslutheranchurch.com)

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October 20, 2020

Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ,

An announcement was made on Sunday, October 18 that I wanted to make sure was communicated to all of you. Our last indoor service for the Fall will be Sunday, November 1. We will not be having indoor services for the remainder of November or any of December. Dave Cheesebrow, Joe Stemig and I came to this decision together this past week. Though we have made it clear over the last few months that this was a serious possibility if the transmission of the coronavirus was increasing, it is nevertheless a difficult and painful decision to make, especially as we move into colder days and towards Christmas. Still, we believe it is the wise thing to do at this time. The rate of transmission has been rising in the states around us, in our state, and now also in our county. We do not wish to take a reactionary stance of "wait and see what happens" in a way that gambles with your safety and the safety of others. Instead, we desire to be proactive in the love of Christ - not only for our congregation, but for our community.

Given this decision, three topics arise that I would like to address: communion, Christmas and our relationships.

### **Communion**

In the weeks ahead, the deacons and I are going to be developing a plan to see how we can continue to offer communion for us as a congregation. In the summer we began outdoor services to address this desire amongst us. With colder days ahead, that will look different once again, but we are committed to meeting this challenge and finding a way to adapt that will be a blessing to us as a congregation.

### **Christmas**

The next two months are often filled with services that are unique and special in our life, especially with Advent and Christmas. We are brainstorming ways as how to best celebrate and worship Christ together for those events. Back in the summer, we endeavored into creating movies each week. Those movies will continue at this time. Nevertheless, we would like to do something unique or different for the holidays, not for the sake of being different, but for the sake of building one another up and participating in a life of worship together. Dan Woolley and I are conversing about these matters. Some of you have already shared ideas you had with me about a longer recorded service, or live streaming Christmas hymns. If you have ideas you would like to share around worship, or music for this coming December, please contact me.

### **Relationships**

We have all experienced a change in relationships, whether it is limited personal interaction with others or maybe you have had no personal interaction with others. This is a serious and challenging matter. The colder months may intensify this relational strain as well as the change to Sunday mornings. The brainstorming team that met this past month had put forward a suggestion of having members pair up with those who are more homebound in our congregation. This could be done by making regular phone calls or writing letters in order to foster relationships. This is a wonderful time to put this into action. If you are already homebound, or anticipate being more homebound in the days ahead, or just want to be more connected with a brother or sister in Christ in the days ahead, please let me know. We will be collecting names and pairing up those who are interested. The only requirement is to establish some form of regular contact (letter, phone, etc.) with whom you are paired. If you want help figuring out what to talk about, I am here to help. If you have any questions about this, please let me know.

To Welcome All People Into The Kingdom of God by Fostering Relationships



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God has created us to be relational creatures, to live and work together. We are in this together, sharing together in the one Spirit in order to work together as one body in Christ. All of this is still centered around our desire to follow Jesus - faithful to God in love for others. If there are needs you have or see, please feel free to communicate them so we can address them together as the body of Christ.

In Christ,

Pastor Chris Weber

P.S. Members, please watch your mail as you will be receiving information about our annual voter's meeting that will be taking place through the mail. The mailing will include our proposed budget and a ballot to vote on the budget, as well as other information.