

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Faith Lutheran Church:

As with many things that have happened in the last two weeks, this Sunday will bring something new for many of our families; attending service at home. This will pose some interesting challenges as the context that normally guides our behavior has changed and so new habits and patterns will need to be formed. For many, Sunday morning is not just about the worship service but also the community interaction that occurs when you are with your friends and family. Keep in mind, that Christians are never alone. God binds us together as the Body of Christ and even though we cannot see the Church as the community of believers, we can still see the characteristics of the church and know that we are surrounded by the multitude of believers who are joining with us in hearing the Gospel, praying for one another, and encouraging each other as you live the Christian life. Furthermore, we are reminded that we never worship alone, we worship with the “angels and archangels and all the company of heaven (the believers who have died and been taken to heaven before us). Therefore, when you gather to worship this weekend and watch the service over the computer, remember, you are not alone. The Word of God is there, which means the Body of Christ is there, and the whole church on earth and in heaven will be there worshipping by your side. What follows are some suggestions of how to make viewing the service a more worshipful experience.

- Print the bulletin in advance or have it available on another device so that you can follow along.
- Participate in the way you would at church- say the responses, sing out loud, stand and sit where it is indicated, pray along with the pastor. Worship should never be a passive experience. It is meant to involve you and your senses. It might feel weird to do at home, but no one can see you anyway, so engage in the worship.
- Don't play the service “in the background.” Set aside time to worship as you would if you were coming to church.
- Consider “dressing for the service” to help set your mind on what you are doing.
- Create a home altar. Place a purple or rose colored cloth on the table under the computer and light a candle on each side to make it feel different than watching a youtube video. Have a child be the acolyte to engage them in what you are doing.
- Enjoy the flexibility and know it won't be a perfect replica of normal worship. Christians are meant to be together but when that is not allowed, we do the best we can. By making an effort to watch the service, you will model to children that worship is important and we will do our best to receive that grace and gifts of God no matter what is happening around us.
- If you have children, don't forget to “attend” Sunday School. Alex has prepared a lesson complete with music and a craft for families. This will also be available on Facebook and our website.
- After the service, call a friend or write a note of encouragement to someone from church. They will be blessed to know that you have remembered them even when you were not together.

- Take advantage of receiving the Lord's Supper. Instructions on how to do this are provided below.

Blessings to you all during this time,  
Pastor Errer

## Worship Service Plan and Guidelines During the COVID 19 Gathering Restrictions

For Gathering Limits of 10:

- Wednesday Lenten Services will be live streamed at 4:00. Recordings will be available shortly after the service concludes.
- Sunday Morning Services will be live streamed at 8:00. Recordings will be available after the service concludes.
- Bulletins will be available, in advance, on our website.
- Sunday School lessons will be pre-recorded and posted on the church Facebook page.
- No elders or ushers will be asked to be present for the services.
- Lord's Supper
  - At the conclusion of the Sunday service (approximately 9:00), Pastor will begin distribution for those who would like to receive the Lord's Supper. Distribution will be available until 12:00 p.m.
  - As families arrive for communion, they will be greeted by Vicar in the parking lot.
  - All members will enter via the front entrance and Vicar will open the door for them.
  - They shall then proceed to the sanctuary to receive communion from pastor.
    - Communion will be distributed while standing to avoid contact with the communion rail.
    - Pastor will wash/sanitize his hands between each family.
    - Please do not sit in a pew or touch any surface as you are moving through the building.
  - After receiving communion, families are then asked to depart so that the next family may enter.
  - To maintain a limit of 10 people gathering in the building, members are asked to remain in their car until the previous family has left.
  - Please do not come to the church to receive communion if you have
    - Recently traveled outside of WI
    - Are running a temperature
    - Been in contact with someone who has, or shows the symptoms of having, COVID 19
    - Are sick or show symptoms of having COVID 19
    - Instead, please call the pastor for further guidance

Thank you for your patience as we work to be faithful to our Lord and His commands while still abiding by the rules put forth to protect the vulnerable among us.

Pastor Errer