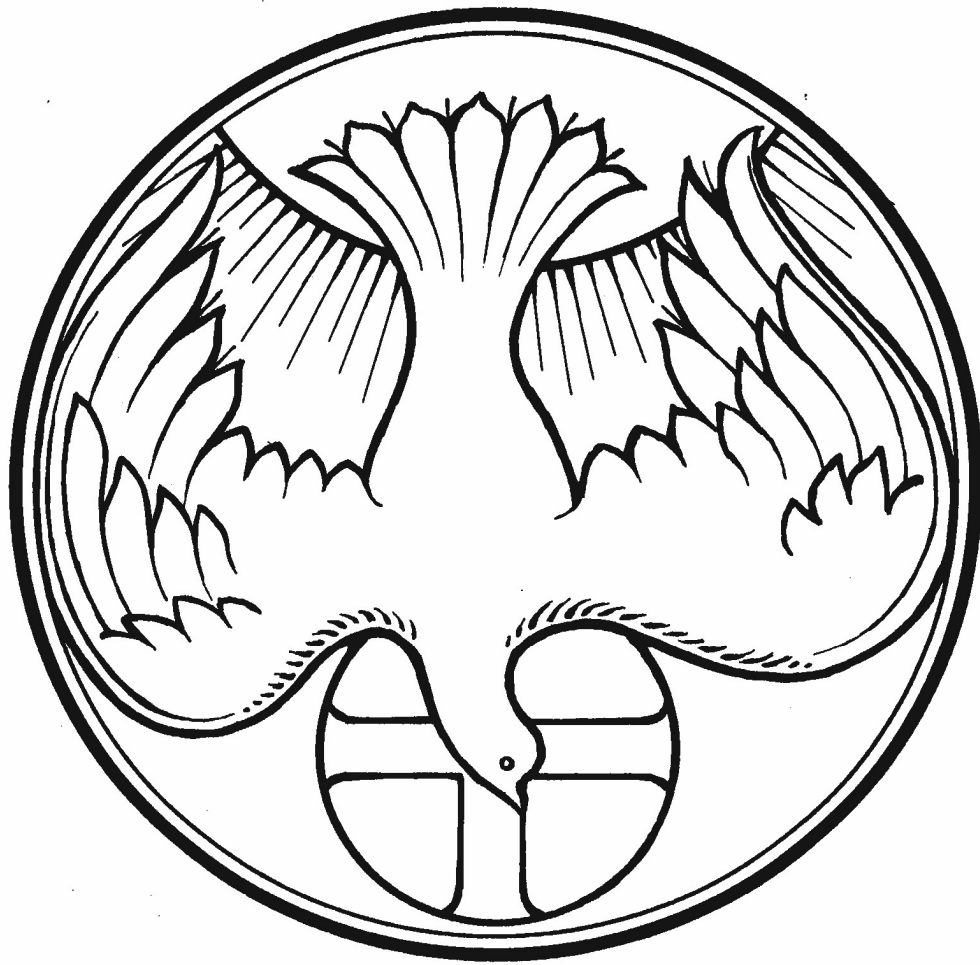


**St. Paul's Lutheran Church
214 7th Avenue Southwest
Aberdeen, SD 57401
605-225-1847**



COVID-19 Re-opening Worship Protocols

Let Us Go to the House of the LORD! (Psalm 100:3)

“One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple. ⁵ For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock” (Psalm 27:4-5).

It is with exceedingly great joy that we can announce worship will resume on **Sunday, May 24**. Since we are still in the midst of a pandemic and because we desire worship to be as safe yet as meaningful as possible, we have adopted some modifications to worship, which are outlined below. There will also be a video tutorial posted to our website that walks you through these changes.

We are counting on you, as God’s people, to use your sanctified common sense. If you are a member of a high-risk demographic or are demonstrating any symptoms, please stay at home. As mentioned below, we will still be posting videos of worship and Bible Study because we want to make sure everybody has an opportunity to worship even if they cannot physically attend.

Worship Days and Times

1. Worship will be **Sundays at 8:00 am and 10:45 am** and **Monday evenings at 6:15 pm** and **Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm**.
2. As you probably noticed, we moved the second service back fifteen minutes. We did this for two reasons. First, it allows for more time in between services as we adjust to the new COVID-19 protocols. Second, we wanted to offer the Lord’s Supper at all our services. Since there has been a fast on both the Lord’s Supper and church fellowship, we wanted to make the Lord’s Supper available at each service, but we also didn’t want to offer it at the expense of Bible study or fellowship time, so we added fifteen minutes between the services.
3. We will keep the Wednesday evening service for as long as we need to. If it proves unfruitful, we will move back to just our Sunday and Monday evening schedule.

Worship—What to Expect

1. **We will be using only the main south entrance.** We are doing this because, much like a fancy restaurant, you will be ushered to your seat, so we can safely seat as many people as possible while maintaining CDC guidelines. This means you probably won't be able to sit in your favorite pew! And you may even (gasp!) have to sit in a front pew! In all seriousness though, this allows our ushers and elders to do the best job of assuring everyone's safety and compliance, and God will hear our prayers and thanksgivings no matter where we sit in the Sanctuary.
 - a. We will have tape lines at six feet intervals leading into the main entrance to help people maintain social distancing.
 - b. We will have hand sanitizing stations at the entrance and at different locations throughout the church.
 - c. We will be using printed bulletins (including hymns) instead of hymnals. Please take these with you after the service.
 - d. The elders will be recording who's here since the fellowship booklets will likewise be removed from the pews.
 - e. The entire church will be sanitized in between services.
 - f. Communion will be done at the center isle, and each person will be ushered to Communion, and there will be tape lines to help each person keep six feet from the person in front of them. The pastors will be wearing face masks and gloves for the distribution of the Lord's Supper.
 - g. We will only be using every other pew and will be seating people at the far ends. Family units will be able to sit together since social distancing is not needed for them.
 - h. There will be no hangers for your coats, so please take your coats with you since there will be plenty of room in the pews.
 - i. There will be no offering. We will, rather, place an offering plate at the entrance to the church.

- j. Please, if possible, minimize the use of the rest rooms and movement throughout the church. We know that when you have to go, you have to go! But we're trying to keep cross contamination to a minimum.
- k. **If you cannot walk the distance from the main south entrance into the church, please call the church and let Cindy know. We will have a set of ushers at the north doors to seat those who need accommodations.**

Radio Worship

1. For those who are uncomfortable in entering the church, you can stay in your vehicle and participate in the service because we will be broadcasting live the service over a low radio frequency on 100.1 FM so that people can remain in their cars.
2. You can come to the north doors to receive a bulletin, and after the closing hymn, we will be offering communion to those who remain in their vehicles.
3. If you desire communion, please form a line of cars at the north doors with the front of the vehicle facing west. This way we can give communion to the people in one vehicle, and they can then exit by driving forward to 3rd Street while we give communion to the next vehicle (and so on and so forth).

Online Worship

1. We will still be recording worship and Bible study and posting them to our YouTube and Facebook pages.

Bible Study

1. We will be offering Bible study, but it will be on a **sign-up basis only** because we want to maintain proper social distancing and ordered movement from worship to Bible study. If you wish to attend Bible study, **please call Cindy** at the office and let her know. This will be done on a first come, first serve basis.
2. We will have 23 tables set up in the gym, and we will be seating two people per table or a family unit per table. There will be coffee urns and disposable, Styrofoam coffee cups at each table.