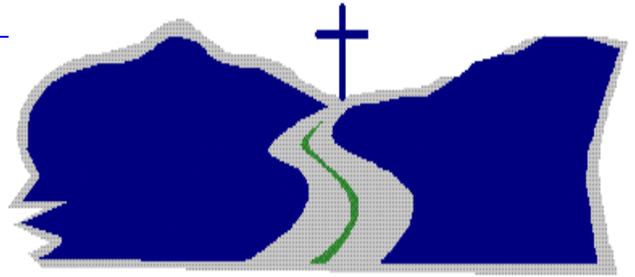


Forward in Faith

St. Paul Lutheran Church
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Pastor James Daub ~ www.stpaulhavelock.com



May 27, 2020

Dear St. Paul Family of Believers,

Grace and peace be with you from our Risen and Ascended Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! It is exciting that in just a few short days we will be able to gather once again in God's House to hear His Word and receive His Sacraments – something we have not been able to do since March 24th. It is wonderful that we will be able to gather once again starting with Pentecost Sunday, this Sunday, May 31. To help make sure that things go smoothly as we reopen the doors, in this letter I am going to lay out all the steps and procedures that we will be implementing. I realize from the start that this may be a long letter, but please bear with me so that we can make sure that things are done in a safe manner with the care of our fellow members of our St. Paul church family in mind.

Entrance on Sunday Mornings

- We ask that all worshipers please enter through Luther Hall under the overhang.
- Doors will be unlocked 25 minutes prior to the start of each service so that we do not have members congregating in the open spaces. While we are going to be excited to see each other once again, there are some things that we will not be able to do for a while.
- Please use the hand sanitizer and if you are not bringing a bulletin or hymnal from home, please pick up a bulletin from the table.
- Masks (individually packaged and in a basket) and gloves will be available for members to use but know that we are not requiring members to wear these things while on our campus.
- Proceed then through Founders Hall to the Narthex.

Entrance into and being seated in the Main Sanctuary

- Once you have made your way through Founders Hall, there will be a round table in front of the green accordion doors that will have an offering plate upon it, please place your tithe and offering in that plate as we will not be passing the plates during the service.
- Please wait for an usher to seat you. If there is a line of people, please try to keep the proper social spacing until it is your time to be ushered into the Sanctuary.
- The ushers will have a general seating guide based upon those who have signed up for that morning. Those who travel or live together will be seated together. We will be seating people according to this general guide with every effort being made to accommodate the special needs of our members. This may mean that you may not get your regular pew, so flexibility will be key during this time. There will be a pew reserved as empty between each pew used by parishioners, and there may be several people or families who may share a pew, but there will be ample room in between them. Please be respectful of where the ushers seat you so that we can accommodate larger families and those who can sit together so that they can be in the same pew.

“Bringing Jesus to the World!”

Distribution of the Lord's Supper

- You will be ushered to the communion rail one pew at a time.
- If you are with the same family or have traveled together, you may stand close to each other, otherwise, please leave ample social space between you and the others at the rail.
- I will come first with the host, the elder will follow with the individual cup, and then I will follow with the common cup and provide the blessing and dismissal from the rail.
- You will then be ushered back to your pew and the next pew will be ushered forward until all have communed. I realize that this will take extra time in the service. However, we do not have an easier way of distributing communion that would prevent people from standing in line or next to others. Please use the time during the distribution to joyfully sing or ponder the words of the hymns, or even pray some of the prayers that will be included in the front of the worship bulletin each week.

Dismissal at the End of Service

- After the final bells have tolled, we ask that parishioners please be seated.
- The ushers will then dismiss people from the sanctuary beginning with the back and moving toward the front.
- Members are asked to proceed out of the Narthex, go through Founder's Hall and exit out of the main doors under the overhang of Luther Hall.
- If you picked up a bulletin that morning or printed and brought your own from home, you may either take the bulletin home or there is a blue recycle bin that used bulletins may be placed into. There will be a different set of bulletins for the early and the late services so there is no need to return them to the table where you picked one up from as you entered the building.
- Hand sanitizer is available for your use once again as you prepare to leave the building.
- If you picked up a mask, you are welcome to take it home with you as we will not be washing or reusing them – this is our gift to you thanks to the generosity and talent of several of our members who have made them for us.
- If you picked up a set of gloves, there will be a garbage can that you may place your used gloves into as you leave the building prior to using hand sanitizer once again.
- We kindly ask that members do not congregate in Luther Hall or Founders Hall as we will need enough time to clean and sterilize the building between services. If you would like to have socially distant conversations with fellow church family members, you may do so outside on the front grass, grassy area by the office entrance, or in the parking lot.

Bathrooms and Building Usage

- The back half of our building will be closed to members and guests. This includes the back bathrooms, classrooms, and the nursery.
- Please reserve the new bathroom outside of the church office for handicapped and families with small children who may need the changing station and diaper can.
- The kitchen will be closed and there will be no coffee or snacks provided before or after church. We ask that members not go into the kitchen so that this is one less area we need to clean and sanitize between the services.

“Bringing Jesus to the World!”

Miscellaneous Items

- We have planned to keep two worship services through the last Sunday of August. We will evaluate along the way the need for extending this if need be, or if there will be a time when we are able to increase the number of members in each service. The Elders, Council President and I will be meeting regularly to continue to discuss and evaluate how things are going. Please be assured that these were not easy decisions for us to suspend in person worship, and they have not been easy decisions on how we will reintroduce corporate worship back into St. Paul. I have consulted with several health professionals, and each of them have said that we have a prudent and very responsible plan.
- During this time, there will not be Sunday School or Adult Bible Class on Sunday Morning. The Adult Class will be moved to Wednesday nights at 7 pm, and we will be utilizing the Zoom electronic meeting platform. I know that there were some concerns that this platform had been hacked and not safe. However, all of the meetings that I have been having with the United States Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security training sessions I have been involved with, as well as meetings with the Southeastern District and the International Center of the LC-MS have been done via Zoom. Therefore, I feel we can continue to trust the safety of this electronic meeting platform since these early security issues have been addressed and fixed.
- We will continue to Livestream our 9 am service via Facebook Live. You may download the bulletin and have a direct link to our Church's Facebook page through our Church webpage at: www.stpaulhavelock.com. I am in the process of working on applying for a grant to help us cover some, if not all, of the costs for new cameras, computer equipment, and streaming services so that we can do live broadcasts via Facebook and YouTube simultaneously and not have to rely on the use of mine or Megan's cell phone.
- If you do not feel comfortable coming to a larger group for worship, we will still have the midweek small group communion sessions. They will primarily be alternating between Wednesday morning one week and Thursday evening the next week. There are a couple of times, when this pattern will not be followed because I will be undergoing shoulder surgery June 26 and will be out of commission for a few weeks as I heal.
- Here are the links once again for the Sunday Morning Worship, Usher, and Small Group Communion Sign Up sheets:
 - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084ba8a828a6f85-sunday>
 - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084ba8a828a6f85-ushers>
 - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084ba8a828a6f85-midweek>

I look forward to being with you once again in God's House as we worship and give thanks to Him for His many and wonderful blessings bestowed on us – especially the blessing that none of our members were afflicted with this horrible virus. If you have any questions or need help with signing up for worship or the communion sessions, please call the church office at 447.3826. May God richly bless you and your family in all things.

In HIS Service,



Pastor Jim Daub

“Bringing Jesus to the World!”