

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

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November 19, 2020

Dear Friends and Family of Zion Lutheran,

Greetings from your Zion council. At a special meeting on 11/18/2020, council discussed whether or not to proceed with in-person worship given the local spike in COVID numbers. Each member expressed their concerns and shared feedback they received from the congregation. The decision is yes, we will continue with in-person worship with a dialing back in certain areas to provide for an even safer experience. Here is what you can expect beginning on Sunday, November 22, 2020:

1. All attendees and worship assistants must wear masks inside and outside the church
2. To reduce indoor exposure:
 - a. Socialize in the parking lot before service. Begin to enter when you hear the bell strike at 8:50 am
 - b. Exit immediately after service and socialize outside
3. Windows will be opened to afford better fresh air flow so bring some extra layers to stay warm.
4. Lectern will be moved as far back from pews as possible and a sneeze guard will be mounted upon it
5. Singing by soloists will be discontinued
6. Length of service will be shorter – aim for 30 minutes
7. If you spend Thanksgiving or Christmas with family members that are not part of your household, please refrain from attending in-person for the two weeks thereafter.

As a reminder, council asks that you self-certify the following before you have ANY in-person contact for ANY Zion activity:

1. You have not tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days and have had no subsequent illness
2. You do not have COVID-like symptoms
3. You have not knowingly been exposed to anyone who has tested positive or has COVID-like symptoms in the past 14 days
 - a. Exposed means close contact within 6 feet of an infected person for over a total of 15 minutes over the course of a 24-hour period
4. You are fever free (less than or equal to 100.4 degrees F) without use of fever-reducing medications
5. You have not traveled to any states with high numbers of COVID cases as designated by PA Department of Health in past 14 days.
 - a. This applies if you did not travel to one of these states, but a household member did, and the household member develops any signs or symptoms or has a positive test.
 - b. The list of states can be found at:
<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Travelers.aspx>

Please know that as soon as it is safe, we will relax our mitigation efforts. For now, we put our faith in the hope that the sacrifices we make today and through the winter will make a brighter future.

Here is some really exciting news! In order to improve our connections with you, council is exploring the possibility of recording our worship services and making them available to you virtually on Zion's website and YouTube. Work is in process to bring this to you as soon as possible. Also, another initiative is to deliver the communion elements right to your door should you request this service. More word on that when logistics are finalized.

Thank you for your support as we navigate these challenging times.

Wishing you and your family a safe and blessed Thanksgiving,

Zion Council