



NEW COVID PRECAUTIONS

Trinity Update as of 11/17/20

"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.

Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others." (Philippians 2.3-4)

Trinity's Council has decided to restrict in-person meetings and worship due to the recent rise in Covid cases in our region. This decision is effective Monday, November 23rd. Beginning then, committees and groups may not gather at the church campus and worship will not be held in-person but will continue to be live-streamed on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am. Committees and miscellaneous ministry groups are encouraged to shift and meet via Zoom. Linda Slatt, Communications Administrator, will be happy to set up a Zoom meeting for you or your group/committee, as needed. Council will discern when to return to in-person activities at the beginning of the year.

In the meantime, know that the campus will remain open this coming Sunday, November 22nd, for in-person worship, classes and group gatherings when we welcome Rev. Donald Green as our guest preacher.

While this decision affects in-person gatherings, we hope all of you will continue doing ministry. Ministries engaged in collecting and distributing goods and/or physical items (sweatshirts, etc.) are still strongly encouraged. Contacting our home-bound and nursing home folks is needed now more than ever. Christian Education offerings for children and adults will continue remotely.

Our decision is based on the rule of love: love God and love neighbor. Bishop Kusserow has said we can show love of neighbor by exercising "an abundance of caution" during the pandemic. As Christ sacrificed himself for the world, we sacrifice our conveniences for the sake of our neighbors.

I suspect you may be saying, "But it's almost Advent! And what about Christmas Eve?" Worship will continue but remotely. Plans will continue for this year's Advent theme of "Christmas Around the World: A Pandemic of Love." Each Sunday in Advent will feature how a nation around the world celebrates Christmas in its music and traditions. A kids' craft will be included in the bulletin each week (downloaded as a PDF). There will be one Christmas Eve service and it will be streamed. A revised program is being developed. We won't worship

under the same roof but we will worship in the same Spirit celebrating the birth of Jesus.

The church office will remain open and hours will be the same as Linda and I continue to be available to answer your calls or emails.

The apostle Paul wrote, "*Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart.*" (2 Corinthians 4.1) May we bear one another's burdens during this trying time.

Doug Gebhard, Interim Pastor

Sunday Worship

10:00 am / Facebook Live

Committees/Groups/Classes

meet on Zoom