

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This was not a letter I wanted to write today. Yesterday I listened to Governor Waltz's press conference, followed by receiving notification from area school districts - Brainerd, Pequot Lakes, Pillager, and Pine River Backus- about going full online for all ages, and then listened to the recommendations from our church council and COVID-19 Smart Team (Executive council, Dr. Roger Macy, Dr. Nancy Henry-Socha and RN Pam Johnson). After prayerful thought and consideration the decision was made to return to Phase 2 of our COVID-19 Re-Opening Plan. At the end of the month, we will revisit this decision as we move forward.

Phase 2

- Lutheran Church of the Cross's office will be open
- Lutheran Church of the Cross's building will be open on a limited basis
- Staff may work from home or in their LCC office space
- Small group meetings allowed, up to Governor's limits on group sizes & social distancing
- Members of our community are encouraged to continue personal preparedness, by washing hands, avoiding touching our faces, etc...
- Physically vulnerable individuals are strongly encouraged to stay home
- Staff and parishioners will be expected to wear masks when interacting with others in close proximity (as per the Dept. of Health recommendations)
- LCC's meeting rooms will be sanitized immediately after use
- LCC's outside ministries will resume work on evenings when there are groups scheduled
- We will continue to consult with local medical experts as we move forward
- LCC congregational council, Smart Team, and staff will make the decision when to move to stage 3

Starting today Lutheran Church of the Cross will be moving back to online worship for Wednesdays and Sundays. On Sunday November 15th, we will have online worship at 10am, *Pedals Pipes and Praise* at 10:45am and Cross Kids online worship at 9am.

On Sunday November 22nd, we will launch Drive In Worship at 9am. This will be an outdoor service in our back parking lot, broadcast through your FM radio (the signal is limited to the range of our parking lot.) Parking lot attendants will direct you, hand out bulletins, and collect offering. You are asked to remain in your vehicle during worship. Online worship will be at 10am, with *Pedals Pipes and Praise* at 10:45am and Cross Kids online worship at 9am.

Our Annual meeting vote on new council positions will be mailed out and we ask that you either mail them back or drop them in one of the ballot boxes, located at the front and rear doors of the church.

Thank you for your support, your prayers, your flexibility and resiliency, and most importantly for being the light of Jesus Christ in our world.

Pastor Drew Bakken