



MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

We seek to answer God's call to love

Senior Pastor: Andrew Plocher
Associate Pastor: Molly Eversoll

Parish Administrator: Jennifer Dodge
Administrative Assistant: Inga Banitt

May 26, 2021

Dear Messiah Family and Friends,

“This is a day, Lord, gladly awaited;
thankful our hearts, Lord, joyous our praise.” *ELW 586*

We have been awaiting this day for 15 months. At the recommendation of our COVID-19 Task Force, our Council has unanimously voted to move to Stage A of our returning to in-person worship plan, staggered into two dates.

What this means:

- On June 1st our church office will resume its pre-pandemic hours (M-Th. 8:30-5, F 8:30-12:30) and the church building will be open for group gatherings. Mask wearing is still required and distancing is encouraged.
- **On July 3rd and 4th we will resume in-person worship in our sanctuary** (Sat. 5pm, Sun. 8:30 and 10:30). Mask wearing will be required. There will be no coffee hour or snacks following worship.

We recognize that, as of May 13th, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) released new guidance on mask wearing for fully vaccinated individuals. With that in mind, our Council will continue to require mask usage at church events. This is because: continuing to wear a mask protects the medically vulnerable in our community, along with children under 12 who cannot yet receive the vaccine and their families. We want anyone to feel included and do not wish to create groups identifying those who are vaccinated versus unvaccinated. Mask wearing allows us to continue to be a fully welcoming and inclusive community.

We are hopeful that the criteria for us to move into Stage B, which allows a full return to pre-pandemic worship conditions (including singing and sharing in meals together), will be short in coming.

In the meantime, please note that worship will be a little different:

- There will be no congregational or choral singing. Please use this time to listen to the song leader and participate in prayerful meditation.
- We will maintain physical distance (to the best of our abilities) throughout the service and ask that you sit only with those members of your own household.



- This will be a no touch service – no handshakes, hugs, passing the offering plate, sharing of the peace. There will be an offering plate placed in the rear of the sanctuary.
- Our first in-person services will be without communion and it will be safely phased back into worship.

If you are not yet comfortable in a large gathering, or are not feeling well, please continue to worship with us online or over the radio. We will continue to broadcast the 8:30am service over 101.9FM and both the 8:30am and 10:30am services will be livestreamed. We plan to continue both the radio and livestreamed services as an ongoing, weekly ministry of Messiah Lutheran Church. Live-streamed services can be found at our website: messiahlutheranmqt.org or on Facebook (facebook.com/messiahlutheranmqt) or Vimeo (vimeo.com/messiahlutheranmqt).

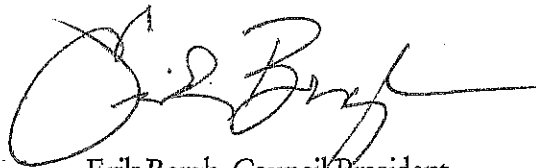
We are grateful for your patience, prayer, and participation in our life together during this difficult year. While we are eager to be back together, our transition will be slow and intentional. We ask that you continue to extend grace as we navigate our transition back to in-person worship.

If you have questions regarding this transition, please do not hesitate to contact either of us.

In Christ's Love,



Andrew Plocher, Sr. Pastor



Erik Bergh, Council President