

# SPOTLIGHT

ON SAINT JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH  
BALTIMORE MARYLAND



Dearly beloved,

As we continue into the summer through the tail end of this global pandemic we also eagerly await our return back to God's house. I assume that you, like myself, are deeply desiring the possibility of gathering together in person around the Lord's Word and His body and blood in the eucharist. What a time that will be!

As we eagerly await this time together it is prudent to properly prepare with the necessary precautions needed. Therefore, on the backside of this page you will find the "**Guidelines for Re-Opening**". These guidelines will explain what you can expect when you arrive for worship and what is expected of you. These next few months of worship will be unlike any worship services you have experienced before.

While you can expect activities before and after worship to have changed, greetings and socializing to have changed, practice and distribution of communion to have changed; God's Word, His truth, His blessings, His promises, and His love for each of us HAS NOT changed. So while these new guidelines will be an adjustment for us all and worship will certainly *look* different, be assured that the Divine Service of God's engagement and interaction with His people through the means of grace overcomes everything in this world.

We all will have to work together in supporting each other in these changes, so I ask for your cooperation. Please note that these changes will not be forever. As events, news, and knowledge of this virus unfold we will act accordingly.

While we look forward to gathering in person, there may still be some of us who do not feel comfortable in attending worship publicly so soon. I encourage you to come if you are healthy and able, but not in a way that will burden your conscience. "*For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.*" *2 Timothy 1:7* He has also called us to be good stewards of the life that He entrusted to us as well... therefore we are to care for our bodies as not to endanger them but act in self-control and love. I do not desire to guilt anyone into attending worship if they are anxious or worrisome, but rather that you ask the Lord for the encouragement and strength to cast all your anxieties on Him, so that eventually you will be able to attend all in God's time.

None of us have had any prior experience with a situation like this, so we ask for forgiveness for all that we have done and for all the things that we have left undone, forgiving each other just as the Lord forgives us.

These guidelines are not exhaustive but will prepare us for worship whenever we are able to meet again.... Praying that time is soon. I will notify everyone via the prayer chain when our first public worship service will occur.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me.

In Christ,

# SPOTLIGHT

ON SAINT JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH  
BALTIMORE MARYLAND



## GUIDELINES FOR RE-OPENING

*What you can expect and what is to be expected of you.*

**If you feel ill or have a fever please refrain from attending worship.**

**Contact Pastor for further questions or concerns.**

### • **Arrival**

- Face covers are to be worn upon entrance into the sanctuary and at all times, except for communion. *(if you do not have one an extra mask will be provided; depending upon supplies)*
- Please refrain from shaking hands or hugging
- Please do not roam around the sanctuary but find your preferred pew and seat.
- Hand sanitizer is encouraged to be brought personally. If you do not have any hand sanitizer, sanitizing stations will be provided.

### • **During worship**

- Family units will be seated at least 6 feet apart.
- Please be seated in the same seats each week.
- Offering plate will be located in a specific area. You may drop off your offering in the plate before or after the worship. You may utilize our online giving service provided. Ask the Pastor for more details. *(Online giving reference guide in most recent Spotlight)*
- Communion distribution will be explained in detail before the Service of the Sacrament. Please make note to listen carefully as this will be a new experience. We will practice continuous communion with low contact distribution.
- Hand sanitizer will be accessible before communion for personal use.

### • **Leaving**

- Please depart as you arrived refraining from handshakes and hugs.
- Pastor will be in the narthex after service, but will be practicing social distancing.
- Please do not linger in the narthex, rather if you do want to socialize, we encourage you to do so outside in God's beautiful nature that He has created.