

MARTIN LUTHER CHURCH UPDATED COVID 19 PROTOCOLS

Congregational council met yesterday, Tuesday, August 17th. The main discussion centered around the rising counts of people infected and sick with covid or the variants of covid. For the safety and protection of all worshippers, council members agreed to make the following recommendations –

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

- *Ushers, due to their personal interaction with worshippers, will wear masks;*
- *Ushers will encourage all parishioners to wear masks, but not absolutely required;*
- *There will be minimized personal touch;*
- *Communion – we will not be coming forward to receive communion, instead everyone will remain in their pews and have their own communion kit (which are available when you enter the narthex);*
- *Sharing the peace – by sign language only;*
- *First Sunday of the Month Brunch – on hold until further notice;*
- ***BOTTOM LINE – If you feel ill, STAY AT HOME.***

No council member is ‘joyful’ about these recommendations. However, we trust that our Lord is in charge, and, as your congregational council, we are following guidelines that we feel are in the best interest of the majority of our disciples for a safe worship experience.

On the positive side, we will still sing praises! We did not feel it was necessary for the choir to wear masks if they so choose – they are a very safe distance away from the congregation. We will also continue to record the service and put it live on Facebook.

With school just now starting back, we feel it is best to hold off on any youth activities in the building for a couple of months and see how things go with the numbers/cases.

Council members and church staff are doing everything we can to keep up with the latest information on this pandemic. News and information are all over the map – as they say – so we can only rely on God and our own common sense for what we believe is the right direction during this pandemic. Please keep all of us and this congregation in your prayers. We continue to meet monthly to review recommendations; our next meeting will be on September 14th.

The MLLC Congregation Council