



**Bethany Lutheran Church**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

May 12, 2021

People of Bethany,

The church council met this past Monday. As we continue to monitor positivity and vaccinations rates, revised guidance from the CDC and the office of the Bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, updates to our current policies were made taking all this into account.

We will continue to worship outdoors, when possible, at 9:30 AM. Face masks are encouraged, but not required. Please continue to physically distance yourselves from others outside of your household. Singing softly will be allowed. Additionally, a small group of choir members may begin rehearsing and singing outdoors.

As it pertains to indoor worship, when being outdoors is not possible. Face masks will be required. 30 people will be allowed to gather in the worship space. There will no longer be an online signup. Following the first 30 people (including worship assistants) into the worship space, those additional arrivals will be directed to the Great Hall to worship as the service is streamed live. A minister of hospitality at the parking lot doors will assist. Please continue to sit in family units and maintain physical distancing as best possible. Softly singing will be allowed. Special music of one to three masked and distanced individuals will be allowed indoors.

Whether outdoors or indoors, we will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion on the first and third Sunday. For the time being, we will continue to utilize the prepackaged cups of juice and wafer. Please contact Paula if you would like one for at home if worshipping online.

Masks will continue to be required inside the building. The parking lot doors will be open 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM Monday-Friday to access the worship space. The office doors will be unlocked when Paula or Pastor Chad are present. Small groups up to 15 people will be allowed to resume meeting in the Great Hall. Masks are required unless participants are physically distanced (6') from one another.

These policies will be in place through July; however, subject to change sooner pending further CDC guidance or direction from our bishops. A target date of Sunday, September 5<sup>th</sup> has been set in which we can hopefully gather with no precautionary measures. This, too, is subject to change as conditions warrant.

Please contact a council member with any questions.

Sincerely,

Del Hughes  
Council President

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You are loved!