

Bethany Lutheran Church Pandemic Response: Phase 2 Regathering for Worship

February 18, 2021

Dear Bethany,

As announced earlier this week, the Church Council unanimously voted to move to Phase 2 of the Bethany Lutheran Church Pandemic Response in regathering for worship. Barron County's number of new daily Covid cases has dropped below the threshold of 24/100,000 which increases the maximum number of people recommended by Barron County Public Health to 25% of capacity. This data allows us to move forward.

What does this mean?

Bethany will resume in person worship for the 10:00 a.m. Sunday services beginning February 28. If this service cannot accommodate all of the reservations, we will add more worship opportunities.

For our ever-expanding radio and virtual congregation, we will continue to broadcast LIVE a full one-hour service at the normal scheduled time, 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. This worship service will be led by worship leaders and pastors only, with no additional worshippers present. Our cable television services will also continue to be broadcast at their normally scheduled times.

Our in person services will be shorter, but still embody the traditions that we hold sacred as Lutherans. Pastors will continue to lead the service, we will be able to recite the Creed and pray the Lord's Prayer, partake of Holy Communion, and most importantly, hear the Gospel read and proclaimed!

How will this work?

Worship Practices:

- Attendance requires a reservation.
- Reserve your place by signing up at bethanyricelake.org under the Signup tab or contact the church office at 715-234-9028 or lhullinger@bethanyricelake.org.
- Arrive up to 15 minutes prior to service time ~ Newton Street entrance only.
- Check in at the Welcome Station.
- Inside the building, practice six foot physical distancing.
- Ushers will escort you to and from your seat.
- Communion will be offered **EVERY** week.
- Offering will be collected at the end of the service.

General Safety Guidelines Continue:

- Properly worn masks (covering nose and mouth) will be worn in the building at all times (except for children age 2 and younger).
- Free masks are available to adults and children if you have forgotten yours.
- If you are experiencing symptoms of illness, please stay home.
- Practice six foot physical distancing.
- Wash and/or sanitize hands after touching.
- No handshakes or hugging.

- Hand Sanitizer will be readily available throughout the building.
- Bathrooms are available.
- Changing station in Nursery is available.
- Drinking fountains are closed.
- No food or drink please.

This pandemic is not over yet. Please visit Bethany's website for continued pandemic information, including Mark Nymo's video detailing correct mask use at bethanyricelake.org/resources/COVID-19.

This is a great step forward, but we need your help. If you would be willing to serve as an usher or greeter, please sign up at bethanyricelake.org under the Signup tab or contact the church office at 715-234-9028 or lhullinger@bethanyricelake.org.

God's blessings,

Worship and Music Committee
Bethany Lutheran Church Staff