



May 2020

Dear Holy Trinity Community,

We want to begin by saying thank you for your sincere faith and flexibility amid this evolving Covid-19 reality. We commend your commitment to remain strong in faith while worshipping in new ways. We also want you to know that we care about you and are praying for you.

As areas around the country begin to reopen, some have asked how this will influence our church practices. We approach this question informed by and in communication with the counties we serve, MDOH, CDC, WHO, neighboring congregations, and the ELCA. Our Risk Management Team, Staff, and Church Council continue to stay up to date with the latest recommendations. While we see an increase in people out and about, we are reminded by our greater church body and partnering health professionals that there remains a real risk for our community and world.

The ELCA shared with congregational leaders a document titled, "Considerations for Returning to In-Person Worship." We are working through this document to consider when we begin to roll out a phased re-entry back into our building. Religious gatherings have unfortunately proven to be highly contagious events, and even congregations taking appropriate precautions have been hot-beds for virus transmission. The care for and safety of our community is a priority for us in this pandemic. As much as we would like to be together in person as soon as possible, we don't want to make any quick decisions that could pose a risk for you and your loved ones. At this time, our building will remain closed.

We are proud of all the ways that our team has adapted and shifted worship onto a meaningful digital format. While nothing replaces a gathered community, we will continue to live into this chapter of our congregation's life with faith and hope. Worship will remain online and on the radio at 9am on Sundays. We have plans for Vacation Bible School online (July 6-10), and are considering leaning into other new online opportunities as well. God continues to unite us even when we are not in the same physical space.

Let us continue to share God's love with a community and world that needs to hear it! This is going to take perseverance, but as the writer of Hebrews encourages, "let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith (Hebrews 12:1-2)." With discipline, patience, and hope, we can be responsible and faithful at the same time. May God's peace be with you.

In God's love,
Co-Pastors Alicia & Ben

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