



BEGINNING JUNE 1

Sunday Worship

When: 9 am

Where: Sanctuary

Format: Traditional

Wednesday Worship

When: 6 pm

Where: Outside

Format: Mixed music

*Open House on June 2 (no worship on this date)

Online

When: Premiered Sundays,
9 am (or anytime)

Where: Facebook and YouTube

Format: Pre-recorded

Summer "Soft Launch"

-Pastors Alicia and Ben Hilding

It's time for some good news! After a long year, it is time to open the doors to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

Beginning Tuesday, June 1st, Holy Trinity will transition from Phase 2 to Phase 3 of our COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan. Phase 3 allows for in-person indoor gatherings, and worship (with appropriate safety measures and precautions taken).

We are so happy with this church. People have worked together, honored the rules in place, and have cared for each other. When we had to close the doors to the building, you figured out YouTube and maybe even made yourself a Facebook account. You showed up for baptism, confirmation, and memorial parades. You brought your own Holy Communion when we gathered over Zoom on Christmas Day, Ash Wednesday, and Maundy Thursday. At our outdoor worship, you wore masks, stayed socially distant, and honked your horns when you heard the service on the radio.

We know that we cannot go back to how it was, but we can move forward. We have been changed and transformed over the past year, and we still have questions about what the future holds. But this is a turning point, and we rejoice that we are opening the doors to the church again.

Just as a new business has a "soft launch" for friends, family, and key stakeholders, we too are referring to our summer at HTLC as a "soft launch." We don't expect the church to be full. We don't expect to have all the kinks worked out. But we're going to start working together for what future ministry at Holy Trinity looks like. Thank you, God, for seeing this church through!

What does Phase 3 look like?

- 3 worship options: indoor, outdoor, and online.
- Masks optional for fully vaccinated, but unvaccinated people should still wear them.
- No pre-registration or distancing requirements.
- Groups can meet indoors, outdoors, or online. Please contact the church office for more details/availability.
- Weddings, funerals, & baptisms can now be held within the church building.
- The church office will be staffed Monday-Thursday 8:30-4:30, and Friday 8:30-noon.
- Self-health screening remains in place. If you are not feeling well, please stay home.

Why now?

According to the CDC, people are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after the second dose of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine or two weeks after the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. On Mar. 30, the vaccine was made available to all people in MN, age 16 and over. To include as many people as we could in this re-opening, we waited until many have had a chance to reach full vaccination. Throughout this pandemic we have followed the recommendations from the MN Department of Health. This plan continues to do so.

What will indoor worship look like?

Coffee hour will be available outside. Tables will be set at the entrance of the sanctuary with Holy Communion and offering. Inside the building, masks are optional for those fully vaccinated, but unvaccinated people should still wear them. When we sing a hymn together, we ask that you put a mask on. All necessary information will be found on the screens.

What will outdoor worship look like?

Bring your own sunglasses and a lawn chair! Individually packaged food made by Donna's Dinner Diner will be available to eat outside starting at 5:30pm (you can even eat during church). Tables will be set with Holy Communion and offering. Masks are not required (recommended for those not fully vaccinated). All necessary worship materials can be found online, if desired.

What if I discovered that I actually prefer online worship?

That's great! In fact, we have heard from many that online worship has provided surprising benefits. We are leaning into the likelihood that online worship was not a temporary fix, but rather a long-term calling. Online worship is valid, and we plan to continue to offer this going forward.

I'm excited, but also overwhelmed...?

As with any transition, there are a variety of emotions experienced. The timeline for transitions will be different for each of us. Please know that we honor your various feelings throughout this next phase (excitement, grief, exhaustion, anxiety, tears without explanation, etc.). Give yourself grace to take the steps (and the pauses) when you are ready.

HOLY TRINITY OPEN HOUSE- JUNE 2, 5-7pm

Join us as we open the doors to Holy Trinity. Refreshments will be available outside. All are welcome to step foot into the building, tour the facility updates, and greet one another in-person again.