

October 23, 2020

Faithful people of Christ-

It is after a great deal of prayer, deliberation, and thoughtful discussion that First Lutheran's Church Council has made the difficult decision to continue to remain closed for in-person worship for the time being. With the increasing Covid numbers throughout our community, county, state and the Midwest, we cannot ignore the risk we may unknowingly put our fellow parishioners in, if we were to gather together as we would like.

Please believe me when we say we do not take any of these decisions lightly and when faced with only uncomfortable choices, we elected the choice we could most comfortably feel at peace with.

We are so very grateful for the innovative ways in which First Lutheran has been able to meet us spiritually. From Wednesday evening services on the lawn or parking lot, to drive through communion, to pre-recorded worship and children's messages, and now live streaming services. Ministry is continuing despite the challenges posed to us!

Know that we are holding all of you in prayer as we navigate this unwelcome reality. We are forever thankful for the gifts and stewardship you have continued to provide.

We will continue to monitor the Covid situation on a monthly basis, considering recommendations from the Southeastern MN Synod, ELCA, MDH and CDC. Our next council meeting is scheduled for November 18th. Please know these decisions are not those of Pastor Julie alone. If you would like to discuss these decisions further, please reach out to one of the church council members.

We thank you for your grace as we attempt to lead with very few road maps to follow for times such as these.

Peace and Blessings-

Amy Lee, on behalf of First Lutheran Church Council