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**St. John Lutheran Church**

**September, 2020**

**WE HOLD IN PRAYER:**

Jake Jacobson

Ashlyn Bennett

Orville Halverson

Jeff Glad

The Pat Larson Family

Joleen & Family (Rita Caron’s Daughter)

**NEWS UPDATE!!** At the August Council meeting, the decision was made to begin preparations to resume IN PERSON WORSHIP as an option, beginning in September. ONLINE SERVICES will continue to be broadcast, and will continue to be the recommended mode of worship, as it remains the safest. In person worship will require mask-wearing, distance-keeping and attendance-taking (for potential contact tracing). For the near future, in person worshippers will be asked to refrain from singing or speaking in unison, and there will not be communion, passing the peace or coffee fellowship. Look for more details which are now publicized, as well as the COVID 19 Protocols that St. John will be following. When it is available, that information can be found at:

**Homebound Members**

David Treanor

Lois Axmear

Robert Krengel

Marvin Jaeger

Ruth Hummer

Cheryl Bergemann

Betty Boroski

Arlene Tolzmann

Robert Beyer

* [www.stjohnlutheranelca.com](http://www.stjohnlutheranelca.com)
* stjohnslutheran.mapletonmn@gmail.com
* Facebook Page: St. John Lutheran Church
* Church Voicemail (524-3615)

**LIVE STREAMING INFO**

**We will continue to stream all of the services online. To access, please go to** [**www.stjohnlutheranelca.com**](http://www.stjohnlutheranelca.com) **and click on the WATCH LIVE SERVICES link on the HOME PAGE or type the following link into your web browser:** [**www.youtube.com/channel/UCfvk\_JycpvuKzPoSZKDpI2w**](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfvk_JycpvuKzPoSZKDpI2w)

**Council:** Linda Henze & Jason Krengel

**Altar Guild:** Julie Lux & Koni Preston

**Church Staff:**

Jill Zellmer- Office & Financial Administrator

Caryl O’Brien- Custodian

Steve Berkeland-Pastor

**Contact Info**

**Office Email:** **stjohnslutheran.mapletonmn@gmail.com**

**Office Phone: 507-524-3615**

**Pastor Steve’s Email:** **berkeland.stjohnslutheran@gmail.com**

**Website: www.stjohnlutheranelca.com**

**Streaming: Go to www.youtube.com (type in St. John’s Mapleton in the search box). From there you will find all the services.**

**\*If you would like to receive a large print newsletter and**

**or a copy of the complete Council Minutes for previous**

**months, please call 507-524-3615 or send an email to:** **stjohnslutheran.mapletonmn@gmail.com**

**Upcoming Events**

**September 14th-** Quilting will resume (Monday & Tuesdays 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.) **(following recommended guidelines)**

**September 15th-** Mapleton Blood Drive @ St. Teresa’s, 1:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. (details below)

**September 17th-** Coffee For A Cause @ The Pillar’s of Mankato 7:30-10:00 a.m. (details below)

**September 20th-** Worship @ 9:30 a.m. **(following recommended guidelines)**

**September 27th-** Worship @ 9:30 a.m. **(following recommended guidelines)**

Sunday school resumes from 10:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. **(following recommended guidelines)**

**October 11th-** Sunday school from 10:30-11:00 a.m.

**October 25th-** Sunday school from 10:30-11:00 a.m.

**-*please view the information below for the recommended guidelines on resuming in-person meetings and gatherings. There will be a sign-in sheet located in each pew for in-person worshippers every Sunday. We are requesting that everyone sign-in and the date they attended worship for contact tracing.***

\*We miss your smiling faces at church! Send us a picture of what you/your family have been doing during the current stay-at-home order and we will show them during Sunday Worship. Please send to the church email provided on the first page and specify who is in the photo!

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**The Mapleton Blood Drive** will take place on Tuesday, September 15th, 2020 @ St. Teresa’s from 1:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. The address is 102 Central Ave. North, Mapleton. Please call 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: MAPLETONMN to schedule an appointment.

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Join us at **The Pillar’s Mankato** on September 17th from 7:30-10:00 a.m. for a complimentary cup of coffee with curbside pickup, and make a donation to the Walk to End Alzheimer’s! The address is 3125 Prairie Rose Drive, Mankato. To learn more, visit PILLARSSENIORLIVING.COM/MANKATO or call 507-344-6777.

**EGiving & Give Plus Mobile Mobile**

St. John's is excited to announce our new eGiving (online giving) and GivePlus mobile option. Through your contributions, we're able to share the message of our faith to our congregation and the larger community, giving people the strength and compassion needed to make it through difficult times such as these. We trust you will continue to support the Church, now that we've added this online resource. The eGiving service, Vanco, provides tools to make giving simple even when you're unable to attend church. Their eGiving is safe and secure, and it allows you to designate your contribution to the church funds you're most passionate about. Please go to [www.stjohnlutheranelca.com](http://www.stjohnlutheranelca.com) and click on the EGIVING tab.

To access the GivePlus Mobile option, please go to your app store on your device and download to your phone.

***Thank you for your continued support and generosity!***

**Church Guidelines on Sunday School & In-Person Worship**

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Parish Ed along with Sunday school teachers will host the program this year with **alternating Sundays starting on September 27th. It will be from 10:30a to 11a for the Sundays of 9/27, 10/11, 10/25, 11/8, and 11/22.** After that point we will see what the schools are doing and proceed with the year.

The following must happen for Sunday School:

* **Parents must accompany their children**
* **Parent will need to sign their children in with a phone number we can reach them in the event of an outbreak**
* **Children and parents must wear a mask.**

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**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**COVID 19 PREPARATION PLAN**

**St. John Staff Protocol**

Staff does as much work from home as possible, coming into church as necessary and communicating with mutual ministry and other staff about schedules.

Staff must stay home if exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19.  Communication to mutual ministry must take place in the event of symptoms, so cleaning of the work area can take place.

Staff must follow CDC recommendations and while at work, specifically, but not limited to:

* follow social distance of 6 feet at all times
* wash hands regularly following CDC guidelines
* clean work area daily
* wear mask in the church or be ready to wear mask in office setting in event of communication with visitors or other staff

**Cleaning Protocol**

Custodian to follow cleaning procedures and materials that meet EPA criteria for use against COVID-19.  Disinfecting of bathrooms, table tops, light switches and any other high touch areas will occur several times each week.

Any person using common use office equipment such as the copier should clean at the end of use.

Phones and other disposable office equipment such as pens, paper, etc should not be shared if at all possible.

If a staff member or visitor or visitor becomes ill, sanitizing and cleaning guidelines as outlined by the CDC website will be followed.

**Communication**

All staff will be trained on COVID-19 protocols.  A copy of this preparedness plan will be available on the St. John website.  Ongoing information will be communicated to all members via newsletter, email, social media, etc.

Signage for all members and visitors of the building will be in place to communicate latest CDC, MDH and other guidance.

**Worship Protocol**

Members are encouraged to participate from home as services will continue to be available on St. John website and YouTube, both live and streamed later.

Attendance at indoor services will be limited to 120 people in the worship center and 30 people in the basement.  This doesn't include the worship team.

Members and visitors must follow the following in order to have the safest in-person worship as possible:

* We are requiring that in-person worshippers sign-in on the clipboards provided in each pew open. This is for contact tracing.
* Holy Communion will not be offered at this time, and we will continue to observe a holy fast, feasting instead on God's Word and the communion of the Holy Spirit
* Do not come to church if you have any COVID-19 symptom, or have been close to any person exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, or have tested positive for COVID-19 within 14 days.
* Attendance will be taken in case of positive COVID-19 for contact tracing.
* Bring and wear a mask
* Must follow 6 feet social distance guidelines and follow seating rules.  Signage will be throughout the church to assist members with seating rules.  People may sit in every other row (front to back) provided they are not immediately in front or behind one another.  If people sit in front of or behind someone, there needs to be two rows of pews between them.  Family groups may sit together.  First four pews will be left empty as buffer between the worship team and the congregation.
* Must not sing or recite words out loud (basically follow the service passively)
* Bulletins will be pre-placed in pews
* Offering plates and hand sanitizer will be in clearly marked designated locations
* Fellowship before and after the service is encouraged to be outside following appropriate social distancing, and will not include coffee or food.
* Basement will be open for parents with children for the service as an option
* Microphones will not be shared.

Worship team will be allowed to not wear mask while speaking and singing.  All other rules apply to the worship team as other members.

Funerals and funeral visitation will occur at the direction of the funeral home director direction, following the same general safety practices as above and limitations on attendance numbers.

Weddings and baptisms will occur, following the same general safety practices as above with limitations on attendance numbers.

All other church use will be reviewed by the Church Council on a case by case basis.

Posted 8-25-2020

(This document will be changed as necessary, to maintain the healthiest practices possible)

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