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**St. John Lutheran Church**

**November, 2020**

**NEWS UPDATE!!** IN-PERSON WORSHIP has now resumed and will continue to be an option for anyone who wishes to attend. ***IN-PERSON WORSHIP will******require mask-wearing, distance-keeping and attendance-taking (for potential contact tracing). 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.*** ONLINE-SERVICES will continue to be broadcast and will continue to be the recommended mode of worship, as it remains the safest. The COVID 19 Protocols that St. John will be following are posted on the church doors and can be found at:

**WE HOLD IN PRAYER:**

Jake Jacobson

Ashlyn Bennett

Orville Halverson

Jeff Glad

Dusty Springer

Mapleton Community Home Staff & Residents

**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](mailto: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)

**Contact Info**

**Office Email:** [**stjohnslutheran.mapletonmn@gmail.com**](mailto:stjohnslutheran.mapletonmn@gmail.com)

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

**Pastor Steve’s Email:** [**berkeland.stjohnslutheran@gmail.com**](mailto: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.**

**Council:** Bob Decker & Mike Sohre

**Altar Guild:** Julie Malakowsky & Amy Hull

**Church Staff:**

Jill Zellmer- Office & Financial Administrator

Caryl O’Brien- Custodian

Steve Berkeland-Pastor

**\*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**](mailto:stjohnslutheran.mapletonmn@gmail.com)

**Upcoming Events**

**11/29 Hanging of the Greens Service (9:30 a.m.)**

**11/30** Quilting from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

**12/1** Quilting from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

**12/2** Virtual Confirmation @ 6:00 p.m.

**12/3** **Parish Ed Mtg. @ 6:30 p.m.**

**12/7** Quilting from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

**12/8** Quilting from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

**12/9** Virtual Confirmation @ 6:00 p.m.

**12/10**  **Council Mtg. @ 6:30 p.m.**

**-*please view the information below for the recommended guidelines on resuming in-person worship, 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.***

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**THANK-OFFERING-** St. John's held our annual Thank-Offering Sunday on November 22nd. We are extending the deadline for donations to Monday, November 30th. Proceeds will go to the SEMN Synod. You may hand in your donations during the worship service or send by mail. For mail-in donations, make sure to note that your contribution is for the Thank-Offering. **Please make checks payable to St. John General Fund.**

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**QUILTING GROUP-** Due to the lack of quilt sales this year, we would like to offer some quilts to anyone who is interested in purchasing. Please visit our website at [www.stjohnlutheranelca.com](http://www.stjohnlutheranelca.com) to view the images of the quilts for sale. You may find those images right on the home page. **Please contact Ariel Glad at 507-508-3183 or Deb Hendrickson at 507-317-6692 for purchasing info.** The quilts are numbered on the images, so please let Ariel or Deb know the specific number on the quilt you are looking to purchase when contacting them. If you would like to peek at the other quilts for sale, you may stop in during quilting hours (Monday & Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.).

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**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**

It has been a blessing to have so many of you join us on Sundays this past fall to participate in Sunday School. It is wonderful to see the students in the church. Parish Ed is evaluating when we will resume, which will more than likely be after Christmas. We will connect with an email to all families once we have better understanding of how the month of December goes.

We are asking for your children to please submit a video with the songs Away in a Manger and This Little Light of Mine. An email was sent out, if you did not receive it please contact the church office.  We look forward to hearing the students share their musical talents.

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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 *(age 5 and under are not required to wear a mask)*
* Must follow 6 feet social distance guidelines and follow seating rules.  Worship bulletins will be placed on pews to assist members with seating safety (at both ends of every third pew).  Family groups may sit together.  Several pews in the front 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. The front pews will be used by family/wedding party/baptismal party. This will include as many pews as necessary to accommodate this group. Two pews will be left behind them as a buffer.

Family/wedding party/baptismal party, will be allowed to not wear masks while participating in the service and while having pictures take.

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

Posted 10-09-2020

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

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

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**Building Usage Guidelines**

* Sign up with the church office, for room, date and time
* Maximum meeting group size is dependent on room (see office for details)
* Must wear a mask and keep 6 feet apart from one another
* Leave the room with the provided disinfectant before leaving
* Have a Blessed Day!