

The Latest Regarding Worship at St. Luke's

(As of May 30, 2021)

Given that the CDC, medical experts, and research recently suggested that the vaccines are incredibly effective in preventing illness, and, equally important, that those vaccinated are not likely to spread the virus to unvaccinated individuals, the Governor, the Bishop, and our own re-opening committee have approved an almost complete resumption of our "normal" worship practices.

In (relatively) short form. let me detail for you what that means at St. Luke's.

1. **re masks:** Mandated if not vaccinated and protected; optional if fully protected.
2. **re singing:** We will return to congregational and choral singing beginning this Sunday.
3. **re social distancing:** Because current recommendations indicate maintaining 3 ft of distancing if we are singing and generally mask-less, we should continue this practice at the 10:15 service.
4. **re communion:** We will resume communion in both kinds on June 13. (The following Sunday, June 6, is "Corporate Communion Sunday," at a 9:00 service, where we celebrate the completion of communion studies for our 3rd and 4th graders, followed by a Rite 13 Celebration at an 11:00 service. It occurs to me that they definitely will not be vaccinated, so, for the sake of safety and simplicity, we will begin offering the chalice on June 13.
5. **re communion delivery:** We will continue to administer communion in the pews until June 13. Once we begin offering the sacrament in both kinds, we will return to the rail for administration of the sacrament.
6. **re coffee hour:** We will begin coffee hours June 6.
7. **re the receiving line:** We will not do this for the foreseeable future because it creates a bottleneck for those who would like to skip it. Tanya and I will head out directly to the atrium instead.
8. **re sign-ups for church:** We will continue with sign-ups and expanded but still slightly limited numbers for the 10:15 as long as we are maintaining the 3ft distance to sing. There is no longer any need to sign up for the 7:45.
9. **re passing the plate:** We will resume passing the plate this Sunday.
10. **re contact tracing cards:** We will continue with this practice for the foreseeable future.
11. **re books in the pews:** Returning June 6.
12. **re pew cushions:** We need to figure out how to clean them before returning them to the pews. Stay tuned!

So there you have it-- I warned you, this was in relatively short form. 😊 If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me.

Peace,



The Rev. Timothy T. Rich