



Woodlawn Ev. Lutheran Church

2217 S. 99th Street
West Allis, WI 53227
414-321-2126

Pastor Thomas W. Kneser * Pastor Benjamin B. Wessel

I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." Psalm 122:1

Certainly we join with the psalmist in expressing our joy over being able to return to the Lord's house for worship! Gathering for worship is the central act in the life of a believer in Christ. It is there that we gather together around Word and Sacrament, and through these means of grace God strengthens our faith in Christ. Jesus is really present for us in Word and Sacrament. He's here to forgive, to strengthen, and to encourage us on the way that leads to our eternal home.

In light of these truths we will be resuming our regular SUMMER worship schedule Saturday, June 6th (5:00pm), Sunday, June 7th (8:00 & 10:00am) and Monday, June 8th (6:30pm). Communion distribution will begin the following week in a format still to be determined. We will be following guidelines and recommendations concerning the size of gatherings and social distancing. The wearing of masks is encouraged (please bring your own), but not required. We recognize that the threat of this coronavirus is not over, and our God-given common sense as well as love and concern for the well-being of others still require us to act responsibly.

For the time being, until we see how many people are ready to come back to church for worship, we are asking that everyone please sign up for the service you will be attending. Our limit will be approximately 60 people per service. The simplest way is to go online using this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0848AFAD2CA6F85-communion>. For those without internet access you can call, text or email one of the pastors to be put on the list. The Monday service is the least attended, so perhaps consider attending that if you are worried about too many in the service.

As far as sanitizing between services, we hope to have some regular 'crews' established so that this can be done quickly after services, especially on Sunday. We are guessing it will take 15-20 minutes each time. If you would be willing to help after church, please call the church office to tell us how many helpers you are offering.

Let's all remember to be gracious in our view of others and their choices. Anyone who is in a high-risk health category, or feels uncomfortable attending in-person worship services, is welcome to stay home. Not attending until you are more comfortable is not a sin! Our online worship recordings will continue for the foreseeable future. Let us all be guided by love as we take words and actions in the kindest possible way. Be sensitive to the concerns of others, and be charitable in your interpretation of things.

Remember in your prayers: **Viola Strzyzewski**, who spent some time in the hospital, but now is residing at Maplewood Residence Center, part of the Village at Manor Park complex; **Lynn Wolcyk** and her family at the death of her mother, Mary Geraci, (just two weeks after the death of Lynn's sister); **Larry Gunder** and his family at the death of his brother, Michael.

Forward in Christ (FIC), the synod's official magazine, is offering free digital access to the June issue for both subscribers and non-subscribers (hover over the underlined words, hold down the Ctrl key and click). Do you know someone who could benefit from spiritual comfort right now? This is the perfect time to share with them the strength from God's Word found in *Forward in Christ*.

You will receive more direction as you come to church, and it will take a little time to get used to these things and they may be altered if necessary. For now, we look forward to seeing you, we welcome your questions and concerns, and as always, may God bless our time in his Word together!

Pastor Kneser and Pastor Wessel
(414) 339-8618 (414) 315-1821