June 17, 2020

Dear Ministry Partner,

***My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.***

***These things I remember…***

 ***how I used to go with the multitude… to the house of God***

 ***with shouts of joy and thanksgiving among the festive throng***

***(Psalm 43:2,4).***

Perhaps the longing of this psalm remains your own. Health precautions make it impossible for you to gather in public worship at this time.

**St. Paul’s is committed to serving you…**

* providing the best possible **online worship** experience for both Traditional and Bridge services.
* providing **small group (10 person) communion** opportunities on the 1st and 3rd weekends of the month. Register for these opportunities by responding to the communion registration emails or by calling Tammy in the church office (414-422-0320, press zero).
* providing **private communion** to those who request it (contact Tammy at the number above).

***I rejoiced with those who said to me,***

 ***“Let us go to the house of the LORD” (Psalm 122:1).***

The joy of this psalm may be yours. While taking precautions against COVID-19, you are ready to begin a more normal worship life pattern.

**St. Paul’s is committed to serving you…**

* We are opening **additional seating** by allowing seating in every other pew so that there is sufficient seating at all our worship services for a typical weekend attendance.
* We are returning to **congregational singing in all our services**, similar to our services pre-COVID-19.
* We will begin **in-service communion** in our traditional services the weekend of June 27-28. In-service communion will be offered the 2nd and last weekend of the month.
* The **weekly Bridge communion** at 9:45 am will resume on June 28.

**Precautions**

We will continue to take precautions to provide as safe an environment as possible.

 **Seating**

* We continue to limit seating to every third pew in the section on the far pulpit side of the sanctuary for those who desire greater social distance.
* We invite those who prefer to refrain from singing or wish to be more distant from those who are singing to sit on the far pulpit side of the sanctuary or in the balcony. You might also choose to worship on Wednesday evening because that is our lowest attended service and can provide maximum social distancing.

**Hygiene**

* Hand sanitizer stations will be available as you enter the lobby and as you come forward to receive the Lord’s Supper.
* We will limit multiple people handling the same objects by asking you to keep used worship folders and to place offerings and connection cards in the boxes in the lobby.
* Face masks are encouraged, but not required. Our staff and volunteers will wear masks to provide an extra measure of protection for our fellow worshippers.

**The Lord’s Supper**

* Signs will be posted reminding altar guild volunteers and communion distributors to wash their hands thoroughly and to mask before preparing the elements.
* The communion distributor will drop the bread in your cupped hands to avoid hand-to-hand contact.
* The wine will be served in individual cups. The trays will leave space between cups to allow communicants to take a cup from the tray without touching another cup.

**Outdoor Worship**

Our annual outdoor worship service is August 2at 10:30 am. If this outdoor worship enables more people to return to in-person worship, we may provide several more outdoor worship opportunities while the weather permits.

As always, we thank you for your patience as we seek the best way to serve God’s people. Thank you also for your continued generous support of gospel ministry here at St. Paul’s.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Pete Panitzke

For the Ministerial Team