



# St. Luke Presbyterian Church's Current COVID-19 Strategy to Protect Our Church Family

Blessings from Pastor Kati

My dear St. Luke members and friends,

I hope you are fairing well, taking your vitamins and washing your hands. Your session has been making preparations to provide for worship and ensure your safety and the safety of our community over the next several weeks. This weekend felt like a rollercoaster of information, so I wanted to send you a preliminary email to keep you updated on our discussions.

Those gathered in our building and through our Facebook page had a joyful worship service on Sunday, and, at this point, our session has voted to continue worship with a few contingencies. If you missed worship, you can still access our service on our Facebook page, even if you are not a member of Facebook. We will continue to stream our services live on Facebook, and we ask that anyone who is sick will remain at home. If you have traveled out of the country, please evaluate your necessity and safety to be present in worship. Everyone who comes will be encouraged to follow directions of the CDC by regularly washing/disinfecting your hands, remaining 6 feet away from people regardless of your symptoms, refraining from touching your face, and covering all coughs and sneezes. If someone becomes sick while in the church building, we have decided that the Library would be the safest and most convenient place to wait while arrangements can be made to help them get home safely. For Sunday's service we will have masks available for anyone who becomes sick and their caregivers. The CDC has recommended that masks are unnecessary for people who are not sick and are not caring for someone who is sick. If you feel the need for a mask, I encourage you to reevaluate whether you should be socializing in public.

Offering will be taken at the entrance into the sanctuary and we will not pass the place for the time being. You may mail in your pledge, use our website options for giving, or use this as an opportunity to set up automatic withdrawals at your bank.

Throughout the week, we will be keeping normal office hours, however, we will only be receiving essential visitors. At this point, we have decided to allow groups to make their own decisions about their individual gatherings, since all of our daily group meetings do not exceed 50 people.

We are making preparations to send out shorter and urgent messages by voice message, text and app notification. If you want to make sure you are identified to receive a voice message, please call the office or respond to this email with your preferred contact number(s). We will be using our own judgements for the time being.

Our office will also serve as a central point of connection if you have any need for help with groceries or other trips you are unable to make. If you have a need for pastoral care, please do not hesitate to call me on my cell phone.

You can expect more updates later this week as our community situations become clearer.

In this ever changing time, as so many variables seem out of our own control, we rest in the knowledge that “nothing can separate us from the love of God,” not masks or gloves, not distance or absence, not sickness or health, not quarantines or pandemics.

We grieve for those who have lost loved ones, as well as those who must remain disconnected from human connections to protect themselves. Let all us remember our baptism, and look towards hope in our God of resurrection, rebirth and redemption.

May the Lord bless you and keep you,  
May the Lord reveal beauty in your life,  
May the Lord present you with peace,  
This day and every day,

Pastor Kati

Rev. Kati Collins  
Minister  
St. Luke Presbyterian Church