

October 20th, 2020

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We, the Session of your church, thank you for your prayers and support during this difficult time, and we want to share our thoughts and plans going forward. Please know that our goal is to return to the time when we can worship and fellowship together in person. Like you, we all miss that personal contact. However, while some restrictions are being lifted in some places, the ongoing threat of the Covid-19 global pandemic requires that we return to church in a way that is measured and mindful of our safety. In Amarillo, things for now do not permit in-person services in a way that ensures that safety.

But, despite this challenge, St. Luke is alive and well. Church here is not “closed.” Small groups are using the building during the week when health guidelines permit, such as the Threads of Love ministry, Bible study, a watercolor group, and others. We have also learned new ways to be the church remotely. Most church meetings are now conducted electronically, and we have had book studies, meditation, and daily prayer at different times. We have learned some new ways to be the church.

As our ministry continues, we are taking other steps to return to full occupancy and use of our building. While we are not yet able to return to live worship, we feel the time is right to move that direction. Therefore, on Sunday, November 22, 2020, there will be a worship service in the sanctuary at 9:30 am. This will be an abbreviated service, lasting no more than 30 minutes. Attendance will be limited to 50 people, some of whom may be seated in the Fellowship Hall. All persons will be required to wear masks and practice social distancing. The regular service by Facebook will take place as scheduled. We will keep you advised as plans for this service continue.

St. Luke has traditionally had several holiday events and worship services during Advent and Christmas. Some of those will look different this year given our circumstances. With that in mind, we ask you to take a few minutes and answer the attached survey. Knowing what preferences and suggestions you have will help us plan for the upcoming season.

At any time, please feel free to contact a member of session or Pastor Kati with your thoughts and ideas.

St. Luke will return to worship in the sanctuary, hopefully sooner than later. We will do so through a careful process of discussion and discernment, with an abundance of caution and concern for those who are most vulnerable, upon consideration of the best medical and scientific knowledge available, in the spirit of constant prayer, and with full trust in the grace of Jesus Christ.

Peace be with you all,

Session, St. Luke Presbyterian Church