

**UPDATED MARCH 15, 2020**



# St. Luke Presbyterian Church's Plan for a Modified Opening Beginning Easter Sunday

Hello, St. Luke!

Your session has been evaluating our community progress in fighting the spread of the Coronavirus, and after lengthy discussion yesterday, they have voted to resume in-person worship on Sunday mornings, beginning with April 4, Easter Sunday, while continuing to stream our worship services on Facebook and YouTube, supporting a branch of St. Luke at home and a branch of St. Luke in the sanctuary.

We recognize that each of our congregation members and friends have been finding our own ways to provide for our individual safety and the safety of others. Some activities are more of a risk for one person than they are for another. Some have acquired a vaccine for COVID-19 while others have not. After talking with many of you, we all seem to be taking different measures to adjust to this in-between stage where we are "safer", but still at risk of catching or spreading the virus. My hope is that we can continue to support one another through creative options to meet our varieties of risk levels.

In-person worship at St. Luke will look different than it did a year ago, but you will see many things that have become "normal" in our everyday interactions with our community. Masks will be required, and we will provide marked seating to allow for social distancing. One feature that comforts me is the Reservation Form with Covenantal Screening Questions. You may be familiar with answering such questions at the doctor's office or school, and you will have an opportunity to do this ahead of time or on Sunday morning. When we show up on Sunday morning, and all present have stated that they have not been experiencing any symptoms of the corona virus and that they have not been exposed to the virus, we will be acting as part of a community that cares for the health of one another. At St. Luke, we feel that participating in worship is different than going to the doctor or grocery store. We are not "receiving" services or "acquiring" a service, we are "doing" service, or rather gathering with other people in order to interact and engage with one another and with God. We have been learning to do this at a distance over the last year, and we will need grace with one another and ourselves as we learn to engage our "hands of service, hands of faith, and open hands of love" at different levels of risk and comfort.

Your Session and I will continue to monitor our city statistics and inform you of any necessary changes. Worship schedules will be published as they become available. Reservations will open the Monday before each Sunday.

Blessings of good health and joy, Shalom y'all,  
Pastor Kati