

Getting back to Church

I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD!” These words from Psalm 22:1 ring true for us this day. Let us go into the house of the LORD. Let us go back into Zion! On Monday May 18th the Elders decided to begin the process of returning to Zion for services. This is great news! It does come, however, with some precautions and adjustments.

Phase 1

On Sunday, May 31st and Sunday June 7th we will be offering abbreviated Communion services AFTER we have broadcast our usual service on Facebook Live. The services will include confession and absolution, the Lord’s Supper, and minimal singing. There will be four of these services and they will be limited to 20 family groups each. We consider those who live in your home a family group. If we have a demand for more than a total of 80 family groups we will consider adding another service. If we have a very limited demand we may consolidate to fewer services. Family groups will be assigned seats in such a way that no pew space will be used by more than one family group throughout the weekend. Service times will be at 10:00, 10:30, 11:00 and 11:30 AM. It will be necessary to RSVP for these services (More on that below). We are asking that only those who are 65+ or have underlying health conditions sign up for the 10 AM service. Out of love for our neighbor and respect for the governing authorities we are asking that all who attend wear masks.

About those masks

We understand that while some of you will appreciate the use of masks by your fellow Zion members, others will be offended by them. We ask that out of love for those who are comforted by them, everyone must wear a mask while inside our church building for the time being. If you are unwilling to wear a mask, please wait to return until they are no longer needed.

Facebook Live will continue

We also understand that some of you are not yet ready to return. This is understandable, as there is still a risk of contracting COVID 19, be it minimal in our area. Since we understand that not all are yet comfortable gathering with others we will, as previously mentioned, continue to have a service on Facebook Live at 9 AM. The communion services will not be broadcast.

What about the Governor’s order?

Some of you may have the desire to come to these services but are burdened by the idea of going against the Governor’s order. The Governor has specifically stated in her orders that those traveling and gathering for religious purposes will not be subject to penalty. Many LCMS congregations in our state and community have already begun gathering for services or have made plans to do so.

(Letter Continues)

How to sign up

If you desire to sign up for one of these services go to zionbeaver.com and you will find a link to RSVP for a time slot on ONE of these weekends. If you do not have internet, please call the church office at 989-662-4264 between 10 AM and 2 PM Monday through Friday to make a reservation. Over the weekend feel free to contact Pastor Menz (989-513-0197), Pastor Hemme (989-600-5343), or Bill Kohn (989-205-6600).

Phase 2 & Confirmation Sunday

On the weekend of Sunday June 14th we plan to gather with more of a regular order of worship. Saturday, June 13th there will be a service at 7 PM specifically for those 65+ or with underlying health conditions. Again, it will be limited to 20 families and you will be required to RSVP. Masks and other social distancing measures will be required. On Sunday, June 14th at 9 AM we will Facebook Live our Confirmation Service. However, ONLY THE CONFIRMANDS, THEIR PARENTS, AND SIBLINGS will be permitted for the service. If we allow for more than this, someone will be left out. We understand this is very difficult for many of you but ask that you bear with us concerning this decision. At 10:30 AM we will have another service identical to the Saturday service. All of these services will have communion.

Saturday June 20th and Sunday June 21st we are planning to have three services: Saturday at 7 PM (For those 65+ or with underlying health conditions), Sunday at 9 AM and 10:30 AM. These will again be limited to 20 families each and you will need to RSVP. Masks and social distancing practices will be required.

Patience

In James 5:7 we read, "Be patient, therefore, brothers." Please heed those words. While there is a great desire to return to life as normal, things simply aren't normal at this time. We understand that all the precautions we are taking may seem burdensome or even overdone to some. To others they may seem not enough and even reckless. So, be patient with us and your fellow congregation members at Zion as we begin to gather together again. Yes, it will be different. But we must tell you, we are beyond excited to gather together with you once again around God's Word and Sacrament.

Flood Response

Not only are we trying to respond to the changes COVID 19 has brought our way, we are also trying to respond to respond to the flood that hit our area last week. IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF HELP on account of the flood please let us know. If you would like to know more ways you can help out, contact us at the church office or check out our Facebook Page, [www.facebook/zionbeaver](https://www.facebook.com/zionbeaver).

In His Service,

Pastor Menz, Pastor Hemme, Bill Kohn-Chairman of the Elders