



Christ's United Lutheran Church

One God. One People. One Purpose.

437 Airport Road Ashland, PA 17921 P: 570.875.1591

www.christsunited.org

June 15, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Can you believe that it was March 15, three months ago, that our congregation last worshipped together in-person? Little did we know then how the coronavirus would spread and disrupt our lives. At times of such uncertainty the impulse for many is to be together in worship; I too have dearly longed to return to face-to-face worship and fellowship with you. Of course, the necessary efforts to contain COVID-19 made that ill-advised until recently.

Our congregation is blessed with Council members who have worked hard in planning for the day we would worship on site again. At its June 1 meeting, the Council decided that we will return to in-door worship two weeks after Governor Wolf places our County in the green phase. The 14-day period was set to allow time to inform every one of the date of reopening and to put a plan in place to minimize the spread of the coronavirus. A safety task force has been convened to establish the protocol for this. *The guidelines are listed on the reverse side of this letter. Please read these carefully.*

We will return to in-person indoor worship at 9:30 am, Sunday, June 28.

This pandemic has pulled us out of our comfort zones and thrust us into territory we never could have imagined. Amid such abrupt change there can be an intense desire to return to the way things were. But the old normal might not be realized again. Some traditions may have to be let go, like sharing the peace through handshaking. Not all change is bad. Keeping in mind that Christ is "making all things new" (Revelation 21:5), we can move forward, establishing new traditions and practices while keeping the best of the old. We have a gifted Worship and Music team to help guide us through this change.

You may have questions or suggestions. I invite you to contact members of our Congregation Council or Safety Task Force. Their names are listed below. Please hold these leaders in your daily prayers that God would guide their decision-making in this most difficult time. We will keep you advised of plans and procedures through snail mail, our web page and Facebook.

Now, may the same Spirit who led the people of Israel out of a plague-ravaged land into the Promised Land of hope and freedom, keep you also in God's loving care and guide you into peace.

Pastor Laura Cseflak

Congregation Council: Ted Ambrose, Beth Andrews, Angie Berger, Vivian Brown, John Denchak, Ann Marie Dillman, Jim Gruber, Suzanne Peel, Terry Shilling, Barb Stepanchick, Jacob Tice (Youth Rep.)

Safety Task Force: Beth Andrews, Deb Price, Barb Stepanchick, Tina Wolf