

May 22, 2020



Dear Prince of Peace family,

Grace and peace to you all. It has been over two months that we have adjusted our worship practices at Prince of Peace, in light of the CDC governmental recommendations. We have continued to open the doors of our church for Sunday morning services, yet following the guidelines of limiting the number of attendees, practicing safe distancing, sanitizing, and suspending the public reception of the Lord's Supper.

We have tried to balance the tension of being faithful to the mission of Christ's church and respecting our government, all the while keeping our members and the community's best interests in mind. What started out as a two week "stay at home" order evolved into over two months of separation with governors determining what is "essential" and "nonessential" for the community.

Our synod president, Matthew Harrison, and our PSW district president, Mike Gibson, have both sent letters to their respective governors pleading that churches be reclassified as 'essential' for our communities. Today, our president, Donald Trump, "announced that new Centers for Disease Control guidance will classify houses of worship as "essential," as he called on governors to allow them to open 'right now' after being closed during the coronavirus lockdowns."

The elders and I are thankful for this declaration and support from our president. We long to gather again for corporate worship as a family. We have made a unanimous decision that May 31<sup>st</sup> will resume normal corporate worship at Prince of Peace. We will celebrate the Lord's Supper at both the 8am and 10:30am services. Sunday school will resume on June 7<sup>th</sup>, and Wednesday night Bible study will meet at 7pm through June 10<sup>th</sup>. We will continue to follow common sense guidelines for the time being, and we ask you do the same.

We are currently planning to continue live-streaming our services. While we are grateful to be able to offer videos on YouTube, there is no substitute for the public gathering of God's people to be joined together around God's Word and His sacramental gifts. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday May 31<sup>st</sup>. I believe it not a coincidence that this Sunday happens to be Pentecost Sunday, the birth of the church. The church continues just as Christ has promised.

God's rich blessing of His unending grace and restful peace,

Pastor Darrin Sheek

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