

Thursday, June 18, 2020

**All Saints Lutheran Church "Oasis of Joy" USA
13350 S. LaGrange Road
Orland Park, IL 60462
Don Borling, Pastor 708-448-2939**

Dear Friends ...

It's good to be in touch with you.

To say the least ... It's been a challenging 3 months ... and many challenges lie ahead.

This journey with the coronavirus affects all of us ---- some more than others.

Most important: our thoughts and prayers are with ALL OF YOU, YOUR FAMILIES, LOVED ONES.

We want you to be well and safe.

This is priority #1.

Our church has always been open. Many of you have come by ---- just to say "hi" ... drop off a donation ... maybe to pray. This is why we are here.

Your support during this time has kept us going ... spiritually, financially, emotionally.

We've been able to reach-out to many in need ... and we still have some resources available to continue this outreach ----- just call the church, and we can make it happen.

Our humble staff has been amazing.

The daily thoughts ... Sunday worship ... re-arranging things ... responding to calls ... keeping the church clean and open ... taking care of our financial responsibilities ... doing our best to stay connected during this journey ----- it's a "team effort."

We've never been down this path before. Re-opening and jump-starting things we had to stop and/or cancel ----- I certainly don't know what to expect.

This is a learning curve for all of us.

We may stumble a bit but together ... and with a spirit of kindness and flexibility ... let us see what the future will bring.

The GUIDELINES for the re-opening of worship are included.
Please read them carefully. Feel free to call with any questions.

With gratitude ... love ... thanksgiving in my heart ... and a bit of
"nervousness," too ...

Joy

Don

GUIDELINES FOR RE-OPENING ALL SAINTS FOR WORSHIP

**Sunday worship: beginning June 28 8:30 and 10:30

**Thursday worship: beginning July 2, 7:00 (outdoors, weather permitting ... indoors if we cannot be outside)

**Face-coverings are required for anyone 3 years of age and older upon entering the building for worship. Face-coverings are also required upon entering the outdoor worship area. At this time, face-coverings are not optional. Please bring one with you.

VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU MAKE A **RESERVATION** for coming to worship. We want to be consistent with our state's guidance for public worship --- which is 25% of capacity and a maximum of 100 people in the building. We have configured seating in the sanctuary and Charter Hall to accommodate this. The service will be live-streamed into Charter Hall. We don't want to turn people away ... but the RESERVATION system will help us give you fair-warning if we are at capacity. There is a reservation form accessible on our website (allsaintsjoy.com) or "Friends of All Saints" Facebook page. Please use this form on the website first as the main way to put in your reservation, so the church isn't overwhelmed with calls. Be assured that your reservation will be handled. If you do not have access to the form, you can call the church (708-448-2939) and give us your rsvp. We need to know name, phone number, how many are coming, and which service you want to attend. Reservations are not needed for Thursday worship. Please make your reservation as early as possible the week of the service – no later than Thursday. And only make a reservation if you are definitely planning to come. We appreciate your understanding.

*The rows of chairs are now 6 feet apart.

*Families can sit together. Others sitting in the same row are asked to sit with two empty seats between you and the next person. If you bring a jacket or sweater ... bring it with you to your seat.

*We will not pass the offering plate. It will be at the entrance of the worship area.

*We are not using the hymnals. The entire service will be on one sheet of paper.

*Sharing Communion will be different for now. The ushers will invite those of you desiring Communion to come to the front (kids can come up for a non-hands-on blessing) ... and you will take your own wafer and wine/juice cup ... and then dispose of it on your way back to your seat.

*Don will have a kids' sermon. Kids can remain in their seats ... and then come up one at a time to receive their gift.

*The nursery will not be open.

*No coffee or refreshments. (Pastor Don may be in the prayer book for coffee – withdrawal.)

*Please ... if you are sick/not feeling well ... do not come to church.

If anyone attending worship comes down with COVID ... please notify the church.

*No entry into the building by Nickerson Bridge. Use only the main entrances off the front and rear parking lots. Our ushers will help you find seats and also dismiss us gradually after worship, trying to avoid crowding in the narthex. We need to do our best to keep "safe distance" and do our congregating outside.

**May we all carry ourselves with a good dose of patience, understanding, and kindness.
It's different ... not what we all wanted ... but love gets us through!!**