

June 18, 2020

Dear Members and Friends of St. Mark's,

After a few months of isolation and physically distancing we hope and pray that you are continuing to stay well both physically, spiritually and mentally. It has turned out to be a longer period of time than most of us had expected and these new changes have become a "new normal" way of life for us. It has been an adjustment on everything we do.

On behalf of Church Council we would like to thank the members and friends of St. Mark's for your on-going financial support to the church as we navigate through this period of time. Your generous donations enable us to stay connected with our online services. Both Pastor Dave and Sue have been on a learning curve to keep our Sunday Service very much like a "live" church service for us to enjoy. When we were chatting to you by phone, Church Council received such a great positive response to the online services and the thoughtfully hand delivered sermons to those who are not online. We would like to thank Pastor Dave and Sue for their continued support and kindness as we go through this pandemic.

As we move forward into "Stage 2" of the re-opening of our communities, it was announced that churches could re-open at 30% of their capacity while people attending maintain the proper physical distance within the church. In response, there was a strong recommendation by Bishop Pryse that congregations not re-open until September. The safety guidelines, in which there are many, are just now being formulated and distributed. He is encouraging the congregational leaders to use the summer months to consider the recommendations and procedures from the Task Force. With this in mind, we have reached the decision to follow the recommendations from the Synod. As Bishop Pryse stated in a letter to the clergy, "We have been physically distancing from one another for the love of our neighbour." We will continue to show our love for one another and return to worship when all the safety measures have been put into place.

Please know that the church council would appreciate any feedback or comments you might have regarding reopening the church for worship services or on any other matter. If you want to get back to in-person worship services in the church building we need to hear that from you. If you agree that we should wait to get back into the church building it would be helpful for us to hear that from you as well. Do not hesitate to contact us and let us know your thoughts. And do not hesitate to contact us or Pastor Dave and Sue if you would appreciate a phone call or curbside visit.

Church doors may be physically closed but as always we remain open as a congregation.

Stay well, Stay connected.

With Warm Regards,

St. Mark's Lutheran Church Council, Wellesley