

The Visitor

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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Outside Worship at Immanuel

Great News: After 3½ months of worshipping only online, we will once again meet together at Immanuel for worship on July 5 at 9:45 outside in the parking lot. This will be a one-time trial run with communication afterwards as to if we will continue on a regular basis.

Since worship will be outside and we will still be under COVID-19 restrictions, things will need to be a little different than our previous normal. Here is how it will work:

- Come to the parking lot and be ready to worship at 9:45 am.
- Maintain appropriate social distancing at all times of at least 6 feet from anyone you don't live with. This includes no physical contact, no hugging, and no hand shaking.
- You do not need to wear a mask while outside.
- If you want to sit, you will need to bring your own chair. You may also stand, sit in your car with the window open, or set out a blanket to sit on the ground if you wish.
- One restroom will be available inside as needed, with a volunteer cleaning as appropriate between uses. Come up toward the main entrance, and someone will greet you to escort you inside.
- Singing and public speaking are not possible yet, even outside, so we will not have hymns or congregational prayers or responses.
 - Silver Lining #1: You don't have to worry about hymnals or bulletins.
 - Silver Lining #2: There will still be music, prayers, and a sermon, just not congregational singing or prayers spoken by the congregation.
- There will still be no Holy Communion at this time.
- There will be no "fellowship" time afterwards. Remember that shouting, like singing, can spread the virus and that anyone can potentially spread the virus, even if you don't have symptoms. Please do not shout so your friends can hear you.
- Online worship on Zoom will still be available if you prefer to stay at home for the time being. Note, however, that there is a new meeting number and password starting in July. See "Immanuel Online" on p 6 of this issue for instructions.
- Please continue to stay at home if you are not feeling well, especially if you have COVID-19 symptoms (fever, tired, cough, etc)
- If the weather is not suitable for outside worship, we will still have online worship with Zoom. If so, cancellation will be made via email and phone calls as needed.

We realize this is not entirely back to worship as in the pre-pandemic days, but it is a major step forward that we can finally come together to worship outside.

Since this is something completely new and different, the Resuming Task Force will meet after the service to evaluate if we can continue on a weekly basis. Our future plans will be conveyed through the Flattening the Curve Daily Blurb and phone calls as soon as we decide. We are hoping we can make this a regular event, but want to be cautious at this point. Keeping everyone safe is a top priority.

Peace,

Pastor Burgess