



MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

We seek to answer God's call to love

Senior Pastor: Andrew Plocher
Associate Pastor: Molly Eversoll

Parish Administrator: Jennifer Dodge
Administrative Assistant: Inga Banitt

July 26, 2021

Dear Messiah Family and Friends,

This week we take another important step toward post-pandemic life as a church. Effective this Saturday (7/31) and Sunday (8/1), masks will no longer be required. We are still going to follow the recommendations of public health experts and encourage all who are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated, including unvaccinated children, to continue to wear masks. Those who are vaccinated are welcome to continue to mask, as you are comfortable, or for any other reason.

This is a big shift and will bring with it a whole host of feelings for many, specifically those of you who are choosing to join us for in person worship. We know that you will each do so at a different speed and with different expectations. We ask that you leave room for celebration and trepidation and everything in between. If you've been waiting for this moment since the second week after your second dose, come on in. If you are vaccinated and feel most comfortable masked, come on in. If you're thinking that online worship is still the route for you, or you and your family, we see you too.


Please know that we are committed to being a hybrid church. We know that being able to worship at home, at camp, or on the road has been a huge gift to many of you this past year and we'll keep connecting this way.

With this announcement our congregation moves into stage B of our most recent plan. This essentially returns our communal life to pre-pandemic conditions (food and drink will be allowed, congregational singing encouraged, communion, passing of the offering plate, etc.).

While we remain optimistic that these changes will be able to continue, we also acknowledge that the Delta variant of COVID-19 has been found in Marquette County and the future is unknown. Your Council will continue to stay apprised of the situation and will move us back to mandatory masking should that be necessary. Please encourage all those who are eligible to receive the vaccine to do so, as this will help our entire community be able to continue to gather safely.

Each step forward brings a new set of challenges and opportunities that we will navigate together. Know that we're grateful for you, your love for Messiah and one another, and your patience as we move forward in faith together.

In Christ,



Andrew Plocher, Sr. Pastor



Erik Bergh, Council President

P.S. Please mark your calendars and join us for our rescheduled Congregational Meeting at 11:30 a.m. on September 12th (with a picnic to follow)!

