

Zion Lutheran Church  
624 Barnett St.  
Kerrville, TX. 78028

December 1, 2020

Dear Zion family and friends,

As you know we had an outbreak of Covid-19 in our congregation during the month of November. Almost all of the staff and a better part of the council contracted the virus. As a result of this we terminated in-house worship services. The council, the praise team and myself have always tried to do what is best for the safety and well being of Zion and visitors. Unfortunately, many of those I mentioned caught the virus. I thank God that we have all recovered or are in the process of recovering. And we can be glad that, with the exception of a few members, it appears the congregation remains free from catching the virus. We hope to keep it that way!

On December 6<sup>th</sup> we will return to our normal in-house worship times. However, we realized that the summer slump in cases caused us to become lax in our diligence towards keeping all safety measures in place. With that we have met and are confident that we can safely open as have the schools and our own ZLCC (children's center). So here again are the protocols we are strongly encouraging each to follow.

- We strongly encourage the at-risk population to watch or participate in the service remotely. If you feel the need to stay home please do. We want you to feel comfortable.
- When you come to a gathering, we recommend and encourage the use of a face mask which covers the nose and mouth. This is a suggestion, not a requirement. If you choose not use face coverings, please respect the decision of those who do choose to utilize coverings and visa-versa. During this time of stress we need to love and support as Jesus would.
- If you feel ill or have a temperature please stay home and participate on line or listen to the radio. Check the website for how to connect.
- Ensure proper spacing between attendees:
  - o Keep at least two empty seats (or six feet separation) between parties in any row, except as follows: - Two or more members of the same household can sit adjacent to one another, with two seats (or six feet separation) empty on either side.

- o Two individuals who are not members of the same household but who are attending together can sit adjacent to one another, with two seats (or six feet separation) empty on either side.
- Alternate rows between attendees (every other row left empty). We may try to space families on one end of the pew and alternately at the other end in the next pew.
- Communion will be continuous rather than kneeling at the altar. The servers will disinfect hands prior to serving the elements.
- Offering plates will be at the back doors for you to place your offering. Plates will not be passed.
- Please refrain from congregating in the lobby/narthex as it reduces distance. If you wish to visit please exit the building to the sidewalk or parking lot. Apparently according to studies, outside proves to be safer. At least for the near future I plan to not meet and greet following the worship service. If you wish to visit please seek me out at the front of the church. I have had it so I am not concerned about myself.
- The used areas of the building will be disinfected in between uses.
- We continue to ask those meeting (Sunday School, etc.) to clean and disinfect their room following their meetings.

Christmas Eve worship protocols are still being discussed and worked out. We will try to keep you informed through our website and other means. We pray God will give us grace to live in joy in the midst of these strange circumstances.

God bless each of you.

Pastor Mike Williams