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Dear Members of Mt. Olive Lutheran Church,

We've been waiting a long time to write this letter to you. After so many weeks with the our sanctuary virtually silent, we're so excited at the prospect of seeing you again and hearing your voices in worship! We're happy to announce that we will be gathering for worship this coming **Sunday, June 7, and Monday, June 8.**

While we rejoice at the prospect of being together again soon, we also recognize that the threat of COVID-19 has not fully subsided. Therefore, we urge those who are in the "at risk" category, and those who are not yet comfortable attending, to stay home. **Please Note: For the foreseeable future we will continue to record our worship services and post them online for those not yet able to attend.**

When we do start up again, you will notice a few changes from our normal worship service procedure. Please read the following list, created by our church elders, with guidelines from the Wright County Health Department, and familiarize yourself with each bullet point:

- The capacity of our church sanctuary is 380. Since our governor has stated that churches could meet with 25% capacity we will strive to have no more than 95 people worshipping at a service. Therefore, for the time being we will be offering three worship services—one at 8:00 am on Sunday, one at 10:00 am on Sunday and one on 7:00 pm on Monday. You will be asked to sign up for what service you and your family will be attending. You can sign up through email, text or phone. More information about that will arrive this week.
- While face masks are not required, we do not discourage their use.
- You will be asked to maintain safe social distancing as long as you are in the building. With that in mind, as soon as you enter the church building, make your way to the sanctuary and seat yourself, carefully keeping the six-foot distance from others who are not members of your household. You will notice that every other pew will be roped off.
- Our governor's guidelines, supported by the Wright County Health Department, is discouraging singing in the worship service at this time. Therefore, we will be providing either a soloist to sing the hymns for our worship, or pre-recorded music.
- To encourage safe social distancing, our ushers will usher you out of the pews at the end of the service. Following the service you may gather outside for interactions with others.
- The backs of the pews, the door handles, and the bathrooms will be sanitized after each service.
- There will be no hymnals, songbooks or prayer cards in the pew racks. The entire service will be on the screens. Feel free to bring your own hymnal, and/or Bible if you so choose.
- We will not be passing the offering plates. The offering plates will be located by each door into the sanctuary for your use as you enter.

- The pastor will not be shaking your hands as you enter and exit.
- You will find hand-sanitizing stations at various places in the narthex.

Since we have not figured out a way to implement safe social distancing practices during communion, we will be offering communion in private settings for the time being. Pastor Marggraf encourages you to schedule an appointment with him for private or family communion in groups of ten or less. We certainly hope that by the first Sunday in July we will be able to celebrate the Lord's Supper together in our worship services.

Some have inquired about Bible classes resuming. Pastor plans on resuming the Wednesday morning Bible Class some time in June. He'll keep you posted.

Finally, we ask those attending worship services in the weeks ahead to please be sensitive to the current situation. We understand that everyone will be at different comfort levels as long as this pandemic persists. We are confident that the Lord will bless our time together as we strive to show love to one another as befits members of Christ's body, the Church. This is a special opportunity for us to exercise Christian love, patience, encouragement, and understanding for one another.

We also understand that this is the time of year for seasonal allergies, along with all the respiratory issues, sneezing and coughing that can accompany allergy sufferers. If those symptoms become a problem for you at any time during the worship service, please excuse yourself from the sanctuary. Our ushers will be more than happy to serve you in any way they can.

Though we will change some of our normal routine, we are always confident that God's love for us in Christ Jesus remains the same. Again, we declare with the Psalmist: "I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD'" (Ps 122:1). If you have any questions or concerns, please direct them to one of the elders listed below or to Pastor Marggraf.

Christ's servants to you,

Craig Sinkel  
Mike Hoppe  
Tom Vetsch  
Pastor Paul Marggraf