

June 27, 2020

Friends in Christ---

See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. (1 John 3:1)

We, the children of God, gathered as JOY Lutheran, remain in a time of confusion, news inundation, and worship service suspension. As you know, worship services are suspended since March 30th. Tomorrow, June 28th, would have been our first Sunday back together, however, we have had a spike in coronavirus cases in Florida---8,942 new cases reported as of June 26th. This creates a precarious situation for us, so rather than fully or partially resume services tomorrow, we will continue as we have in recent months, yet adding an option to come to JOY each Sunday from 11-11:45AM to receive the Lord's Supper via drive-thru. At this time, we will be using the wafer only. This may change in the future, but for the time being, it will be wafer only.

The over-arching question before us is, "How long until we resume services?" It's a faithful question. And, church council faithfully considers that question, and it will do so again, in a called meeting scheduled for June 29th. A proposal for resuming services was received by council from the Reopening JOY Task Force. Once church council reviews both the proposal guidelines and the proposed date for resumption of in-person worship services, this information will be shared with the congregation. If you have questions about the council meeting, contact Melody Shaffer, Church Council President. If you have questions about the proposal, contact Erik Maenpaa, Task Force Chairperson.

Until public worship and church activities resume, avail yourselves of the following:

- Sunday sermon and readings are available via the Joy Lutheran website.
(<https://www.joylutheranelca.com>).
- A youtube channel provides abbreviated worship services and other information.
(https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCW_OdupNMdDmVK5X9hzYMAg?view_as=subscriber)

Yes, this is a trying time. Yes, this is a frustrating time. Still, in this time, we are the faithful children of God. And, we have work to do. Prayer shawls are still needed. Crocheted cell phone pouches are still needed. School supplies for Turner are still needed. People to pick up trash from Jupiter and Eldron are needed. Lay worship assistants are still needed. These are all needed for God's kingdom both to flourish and to thrive. And, who is privileged to meet these needs? The children of God? Yes, indeed, "the children of God, and such we are."

God bless and keep you,
JDB+
Pr. J. David Bryant+