



*Welcome people into a relationship with Jesus*  
*Equip people with a vital, living faith*  
*Send us into the world to serve in Jesus' name*

October 18, 2020

Greetings in Christ's name!

This week Governor Burgum raised Burleigh County's and Morton County's Risk Level to Orange. With this change new recommendations have been put in effect including limiting large gatherings to 25% of capacity with a cap of 50 people. He also strongly recommends that all business and faith-based organizations require masks. During the press briefing he was clear that contact tracing reveals that large gatherings, including faith-based gatherings, where masks are not being worn, social distancing is not being practiced and other pro-active steps are not being taken are part of the reason case numbers continue to climb.

Trinity has been operating with an abundance of caution ever since we began worshipping face to face this summer. We will continue to do so and will continue to review our protocols. While we want to be able to offer face to face worship for those who chose to be present, we also want to do it as safely as possible. With this in mind Trinity will:

- Strongly encourage all worshippers to wear masks. We understand that some people physically can't wear masks and accept that fact, but we expect all others to wear masks. This is not a political statement. Public health officials are clear that this can help reduce the spread.

- We will try to live within the 50-person recommendation. For Trinity this will mean the Narthex will be used as an overflow area – with chairs set up in a socially distanced fashion. A third overflow area will be the balcony.

- Beginning Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup> we will add a third Sunday morning worship opportunity at 9:30 in the Community Center. This will be a completely spoken word service. It is intended to spread out the numbers at our other worship services so we can stay within the Governor's recommendations. At the end of November, we will reassess whether to continue with this service.

- We will move to once per month Holy Communion. Communion will be celebrated on the first Sunday of the month.

- We will add brief Holy Communion Services especially for people who do not feel comfortable in larger gatherings. These services will be held on Thursdays. Those wishing to be involved will call the church office to reserve a spot. These services will begin Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. These gatherings will happen on the half-hour from 9:00 AM to Noon and 1:00 PM to 3:00. Those wanting to reserve a spot need to call ahead.

-We will continue to Live Stream all of our worship services held in the sanctuary. (It will not be possible to Livestream the 9:30 Community Center Worship.)

Leadership at Trinity has worked hard from the beginning of the pandemic to make our worship spaces as safe as possible. In the weeks and months to come we will continue these activities which include:

- Only using every other pew in the sanctuary for seating as a way to social distance.
- Limit congregational singing and speaking to avoid potential aerosol spread of the virus.
- Have hand sanitizer stations throughout the entire building available for people to use.
- Sanitize the sanctuary after every worship.
- Sanitize meeting rooms and Sunday School/Church School rooms after each use.
- Wipe down all door handles and railings daily with a disinfectant cleanser.
- Run the destratification fans with UV Light Inserts in the sanctuary and Community Center whenever these spaces are not in use.
- Provide Christian Education opportunities through both in person (with masks and social distancing) or through technology. This includes Wednesday Confirmation (in person or through Zoom), Sunday School and Church School (in person or through a weekly video Gracia posts) as well as Bible Study with Pastor Brian Knutson posted to Facebook and YouTube on Saturday morning.

I want you to know that our congregational leadership which includes staff, your church council and our Safe Opening Task Force continues to review how we gather and our safety protocols. If you have comments, questions or input please let us know.

God Bless – we will get through this together. God is our Hope. God is faithful.

Pastor Mark Narum

Pastor Lee Herberg