

May 20, 2021

To our St. Mark's Family,

Your Congregational Council met last evening and wanted to provide you with a brief update. We spoke at great length about the recent changes to guidance on mask-wearing by vaccinated individuals and what this means for our in-person worship services. Please understand that throughout this pandemic, we have consistently made decisions based on our desire to keep everyone healthy and safe. With that in mind, we have adopted the following policy:

Masks should be worn by all individuals when entering and exiting the church. Once the service begins, all fully vaccinated individuals may remove their masks if they feel comfortable doing so. Anyone who has not been fully vaccinated should remain masked, with mouth and nose properly covered, at all times. Individuals who are not from the same household should continue to observe social distancing guidelines regardless of vaccination record.

It is important to remember that wearing a mask protects those around you in the event that you are carrying the virus. On any given Sunday, we will welcome friends who are immunocompromised or unable to be vaccinated (such as children under the age of 12). As we join together on Sunday mornings, please keep in mind that God calls us to protect each other, especially the most vulnerable among us.

In other news, we have decided to continue with our reservation process through the month of May. Beginning in June, we will no longer ask that you make reservations for Sunday services during the summer months of June, July, and August as we typically have lower numbers of worship attendees in these months. Council will revisit this policy at the end of August, however, it is our hope that we can continue in-person worship without reservations in September and beyond.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call the church office at 301-334-2668 or send an email to stmarksoakland@verizon.net.

Peace be with you,

St. Mark's Lutheran Church Congregational Council