



# Wittenberg Lutheran Church

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Rev. Emily Edenfield, Pastor

Beloved Lutherans,

“We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, ... [f]or we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that God has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction.” First Thessalonians 1:2-5 reminds us that God’s calling is for us and that it shows up among us in the strength of our belief, in the Spirit that gathers us as a community, and in the power that God shows to the world through our acts of love. Covid-19 keeps interrupting our operations as a congregation, but it cannot dampen our mission of being Christ’s people for the sake of the world.

This letter brings you more worship updates and a policy change for our life together.

This Sunday, October 18, Wittenberg will be back to the schedule started on September 27. Sunday School for ages three and up will be offered at 10am in person. Middle Adults will meet at 9am via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85846808043> or dial 301-715-8592 and enter the meeting ID 858 4680 8043). All adults are welcome to join any class, in person or via Zoom.

Worship will be at 11am and drive through communion will be offered 12-1 at the roundabout on the cemetery side of the church. As part of Wittenberg’s 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, former pastor Rev. Michael Sherman will be preaching; we are glad to welcome him back to the pulpit.

We are excited to announce that Wittenberg will resume 8:30 am worship on October 25. The service will meet in the Fellowship Hall and offer weekly communion. The 11:00 am service will continue as in previous weeks. Both services will include the same guidelines, including mask usage and physical distancing, so that we can keep our community as safe as possible during this pandemic.

Council also made an important change to our Covid-19 procedures at the October 11 meeting. Previously, it was our policy to move all activities of the congregation except for feeding ministries and the preschool back to an online-only format for two weeks following a Covid exposure in worship. It seemed best at this time, given what more we know about how the virus behaves, for us to move in another direction. When Wittenberg finds out that a worshiper has tested positive for Covid, we will contact everyone

who has been in worship that day. However, we will ask only those who have been in close contact with that person to remain home for Wittenberg activities for 14 days. Those who were present but not in close contact do not seem to present any additional risk and we will continue with community life, making access available by phone and internet for those at home.

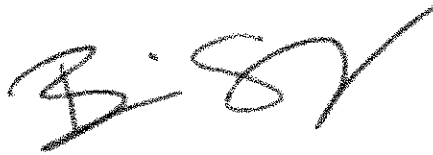
The success of this plan, as with the previous policy, depends on members of the congregation who test positive for Covid letting the church office know as soon as possible. It was a sign of success that when a worshiper accidentally came to worship while positive for Covid, the disease did not spread here. We are hoping that, when this happens again, we will again be able to keep the virus contained.

Thank you for all the ways that you are caring for yourselves and one another during this time. Please know that your leaders are praying for you and working hard to move forward with Wittenberg's calling while keeping our community safe. If you have any questions, please give Pastor Emily, Brian Shealy, or another council member a call.

Peace,



Pastor Emily Edenfield



Brian Shealy