



Wittenberg Lutheran Church

233 N. LEE STREET • P.O. BOX 3447 • BATESBURG-LEESVILLE, SC 29070 • (803) 532-4636

Rev. Emily Edenfield, Pastor

September 30, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

When we resumed worshiping in person on May 31, we sent you a letter with the Council's expectations for in-person worshipers and what Wittenberg is doing to try to control the risk of contracting Covid-19. That letter, which is still on our website, says that in the case of an infectious person, we will contact all worshipers, stop all in-person worship at that time for two weeks, and have the church cleaned.

Unfortunately, that time has come. One of our siblings in Christ who attended in-person worship on September 27 tested positive for the coronavirus on September 28.

Our Executive Committee met on September 29 to discuss the situation. We decided to honor the commitment Council had put forward and suspend in-person worship for two weeks. We will worship online only on October 4 and 11 and resume in-person worship on October 18. We will, of course, have the option of online worship every Sunday, as we have for years.

We will also suspend in-person Sunday School on October 4 and 11, but will continue with online Sunday School through Zoom at 9am on those mornings.

Wittenberg's Food Pantry will continue on schedule, as we did through March, April, and May when worship was also online-only. We will be looking for volunteers who were not exposed on September 27 to serve on those days.

The Blessing of the Animals scheduled for October 4 will continue in a drive through format. Since I (Pastor Emily) was not exposed to the virus at Wittenberg on September 27 and the risks of drive through contact are minimal. Blessings will abound for any animals you care to bring in your car, truck, or trailer.

Committee meetings will move to an online or phone call format through October 11. This will include church council and other regular and scheduled meetings.

Also on our calendar are the meetings of some of our WELCA Circles and Girl Scouts. Those meetings are welcome to go ahead on schedule, though we encourage anyone who has been exposed to the virus or who is showing symptoms to stay home.

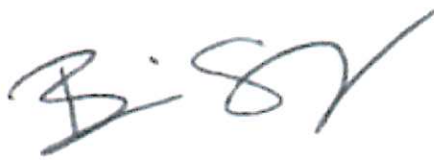
Although we set these guidelines in place four months ago, the Executive Committee felt it was important that we continue in the path we had set out. At our October Council meeting, we will be considering this policy again, since it is likely that someone else will come to worship without knowing that they are carrying this virus. Our Covid Renormalizing Committee will also meet before that time to pray and consider what are the best and most faithful practices for Wittenberg.

These are hard decisions to make. Your Council cares deeply for you and for the congregation we share. We ask for your prayers for all your leaders, for our friends who are struggling with this sickness, and for the continued health of people in our community and across the world.

In Christ's peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Emily Edenfield".

Pastor Emily Edenfield

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Shealy".

Brian Shealy