

August 26, 2020

Hello Members of St. Peter

It has been a while since I have sent out a communication on behalf of the Church Council. You are no doubt wondering what is happening and when we will reopen our church for regular services; thank you for your patience in awaiting this update.

As your council, we have continued to meet over the summer to review the latest updates and consider all available information from the province as well as NALC and other congregations, to help us determine the appropriate time and measures for the safe return to Sunday services.

Although we have all been missing our church family and services, many of us will be experiencing varied emotions as we consider a return to church life together, and without a doubt, each of you has many questions. Through the work of a council sub-committee, we have a plan to comply with Public Health measures for our safe return. We are hopeful that this plan will answer your questions and give each of us the direction we need to return to Sunday services, which we are planning for September 13.

Please review the plan on the following page. We will have enhanced duties of the ushers to help us maintain our safety measures. I would encourage you to call myself or Pastor Jonny if you have questions or concerns about any of the details of the plan.

We know many of you are missing communion and we will be offering our first communion service on September 27; special instructions will be provided at that time. If you would like to have communion prior to that, please contact Pastor Jonny and he will book a time with you.

We will continue to provide the website services for now for those who are not comfortable returning to church. The message on the website will be a recording of Pastor's live Sunday message and will be available within 24 hours *after* the service. If you wish to continue to receive a hard copy of Pastor's message, please contact Pastor Jonny. We are hoping to move to a "live stream" of the service soon and are working to coordinate that; we will keep you posted when that will be available.

Our church service will be different from what we are used to and we expect it will continue to evolve as we move into the fall. As your council, we will continue to stay tuned to any changes in Public Health direction and responsive to the need to refine our plan as we go along.

We will need tolerance and patience with each other as we move forward and become accustomed to new practices. Each of us has their own individual situation to consider in terms of whether they can safely begin attending services. We ask for your continued prayers for our church family as some of us return to worshipping together and for those who

are unable to join us. We know that God has our church, our community and our world in His hands and so we put our trust in Him.

Yours in Christ,

Nancy Aspenes

### Plan for the Return to Church Services

- Please **do not consider coming to church if you have any symptoms**
- Church entry and exit will be via the front door only
- Please observe 2 meters distancing between your family/cohort and others while outside and before entering as well as inside the church
- Please refrain from shaking hands, hugging or passing items between people that are not in your cohort
- We will be unable to visit in our narthex as we are used to. Conversations will need to take place outside while observing physical distancing
- Ushers will be wearing masks
- You will be asked by an usher at the front door to sign-in and sanitize your hands. You will be encouraged to wear a mask, which will be made available; please consider bringing your own
- An usher at the sanctuary doors will facilitate the congregation entering and exiting the church in families/cohorts
- Please sit in your usual "spot" in the sanctuary; ushers will be observing spacing of families/cohorts and may request you change your seat to ensure distancing
- Members who typically sit with other church members can decide that this is their cohort and consistently sit together each week
- Half the pews will be removed from the sanctuary to facilitate spacing
- Bibles, hymnals and pamphlets will be removed from the pews
- Bulletins will not be provided
- There will be no congregational singing during the service at this time
- Offering will be collected in a receptacle in the narthex and quarantined for 24 hours before being counted; electronic transfers for offering will remain an option
- There will be no nursery or Sunday School programming and the nursery room will be closed
- Children will need to stay in their pew with their families
- Pastor Jonny will be unable to greet people at the sanctuary doors following the service
- Only bathrooms in the front narthex will be open
- The church will be sanitized following the service