

June 30, 2020

Weekly Update

Dear Friends in Christ,

These last four months have taken a toll on all of us. We had all hoped and prayed that we would be on the downside of this pandemic by now, or at least in a seasonal lull, but that is not the case. Our seemingly isolated paradise here on the Coastal Bend, has not been able to successfully avoid the increased spread of the coronavirus, as all of Texas now seems to be on the increase. The Governor has reimplemented certain restrictions and is asking all of us to continue to do our best to slow the spread by wearing masks, maintaining proper social distance, and minimizing the number of people we come in direct contact with.

The Church of the Good Shepherd has been following a very strict set of guidelines for the last three weeks of our in-person worship, and we remain confident, given the large amount of space in our sanctuary, that our preparations, planning, and protocols are sufficient to continue to accommodate the number of people, currently 30, who are attending each service. Unless the Bishop suspends our Phase 2 in-person worship, we plan to hold services this Sunday.

However, if you have been exposed to someone who is sick, or even if you are not feeling well, please do not risk exposing others until you have been tested and cleared by your doctor. If you have an underlying health condition, please consult your doctor before returning to public gatherings. We will continue to offer online worship each Sunday recorded from one of our Sunday services. That service will be posted online later that same day. We hope to have live streamed capabilities in place very soon.

This is my last weekly update to you for a while, as I will be leaving for vacation this weekend, and returning at the end of the month. My family and I bid your prayers for a much-needed rest and renewal. I want to encourage you to stay current with all the latest news and information by reading our weekly email each Thursday afternoon and regularly checking our website. There you will find all the latest information.

In the meantime, your Senior Warden, Dr. John Mason, will be in charge along with the Phase 2 Committee. They will be making decisions at the local level as they continue to oversee our plan and execute our protocols. Our wonderful team of clergy and staff will continue to be at your service for all your pastoral needs. I want to thank each and every one of them for the wonderful job they have done and continue to do.

We are all experiencing this together. Please pay attention to your own needs and take good care of yourselves. We will get through this together. We miss you so much and are looking forward to seeing you soon. Keep the faith. "Be of good courage. Hold fast to that which is good! Render to no one evil for evil. Support the weak, help the afflicted, honor all persons; love and serve the Lord," and may the peace of Christ rule in your hearts always.

Yours in Christ,

Milton+