

A MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT

May 20, 2020

As we all continue to struggle with the events of COVID-19, we continue looking into ways we can provide worship opportunities. This past Sunday we had 114 in attendance, so I feel like this is “working” as best as possible. I certainly hope everyone also liked the opportunity to share Holy Communion together even through distancing and behind a windshield.

For your information, a Task Force has been appointed to study and recommend how and when it will be appropriate to open our Sanctuary and the entire church. Members of the Task Force include: Mark Lovern, Amanda Snodgrass, Alice Buckner, Cathy Milejczak, Anna-Marie Plyler, Pastor Andrew and me.

The first question was when Good Shepherd should reopen. The Task Force sent a recommendation to Council which was voted unanimous to remain closed through the month of June, including outside groups and gatherings. It was further recommended and approved to hold drive in services every Sunday in June with Holy Communion.

Once that was decided, the Task Force heard requests and discussed the opening of the Food Pantry as well as the Day School. Both groups have been working on a plan to reopen by June 1.

After reading the Day School plan, the Task Force wanted more information and added a few additional items they felt were necessary. The Task Force acknowledged the great need for the school to reopen but also weighed the safety of the children, their staff, and the church. Everyone agreed that even with the best plan this was going to be a difficult decision. So very shortly we should have a comprehensive plan from the Day School for the Task Force to consider to make a recommendation to Council. Council will have final authority on this matter. This will be decided at a called Council meeting before the end of this month.

From here we continue to gather in the parking lot until such time it is decided to open the church. Our next worship drive in service will be May 31 which is Pentecost. I am sure that once we decide to reopen, the Task Force along with Council will have comprehensive plans in place. Please remember that in every decision that is considered, we have the upmost concern for everyone’s safety and comfort.

Synod assembly has been rescheduled for July 25 (only 1 day) at St. Stephens

in Lexington. Our delegates are Marcia Woodward, Jennifer Ross, Emily Whitlow, and Nancy and Don Hyatt. The primary business of the day will be the election of a new Bishop. Please keep our delegates in your prayers as they cast their ballots to elect a Bishop.

The last item for you is that there will be a called congregational meeting in June to vote on spending funds to replace the HVAC system in the Education Building. This will be a drive in meeting at the conclusion of a worship service just like we always do with the exception of everyone being in a car. We will figure out all the logistics and let you know how it will work. This project has been limping along, but it is now time to do the work. Stay tuned.

Thanks again for keeping your contributions flowing. Even though we are in unusual times the work of the church continues. Please keep our staff, Council, and the Task Force in your prayers as we continue to navigate through these difficult times.

Please call me if you have questions or concerns.

God's Peace to all,

Ed Beaman

Council President