

Monday, June 1, 2020

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

As you consider whether or not you think it wise for you to join Highland Prairie (9:00 a.m.) or Elstad (10:30 a.m.) for outdoor worship beginning this Sunday, June 7th, the following recommendations and directives are provided to help you make the decision that is best for your wellbeing:

1. Anyone who is not feeling well or displaying symptoms of illness (fever, runny nose, cough, body aching, etc.), should not attend worship.
2. Any person of the designated ages of vulnerability, and those with comorbidities, should consider whether or not possible exposure to the virus is a chance you want to take. We will understand and support whatever decision you make.
3. All worshippers who arrive for worship are required to wear a mask. A limited number of masks will be available for those who do not have a mask of their own.
4. Physical distancing of no less than 6 feet between worshipers will be required. Families may sit together but must be properly separated from other individuals or families.
5. There is to be no personal contact (hand shaking or hugging) before, during, or after worship.
6. There will be instrumental music during worship, but no singing. (The virus is carried in aerosols that are increasingly emitted during singing.)
7. Those enjoying fellowship with others before or after worship are asked to maintain the physical distance guidelines of 6 feet. There will be no coffee or lunch after worship.
8. Holy Communion will be celebrated in one kind only (wine). During the distribution Pastor Mathsen will be masked. He will wash his hands before the distribution. He will handle and distribute the host with gloved hands.
  - \* If for health reasons, you cannot consume wine and desire the sacrament, please contact Pr Mathsen prior to worship. (507-649-1650).
  - \*\*If you have questions about this practice of communion in one kind, please contact Pr. Mathsen.
  - \*\*\*Detailed directions will be provided prior to communion distribution.
  - \*\*\*\*We understand if, for obvious reasons, you choose not to receive the sacrament at this time.
9. An offering receptacle will be provided near the bandstand at Highland Prairie, or near the west entrance of Elstad church.
10. Bring your own chair on which to sit.
  - \*For those who do not own an outdoor on which to sit, you may use one from the church.
11. In the event of rain, there will be no outdoor worship services. Check the congregations' Facebook pages and websites for up-to-date information when in doubt. Online Sunday worship will continue to be posted on the Facebook pages and the websites of both congregations.

Again, please feel free to contact me, if you have a question or concern.

Your brother in Christ,  
Pr. Luther+

PS. It would've wise to bring bug spray as the gnats are out in force these days.