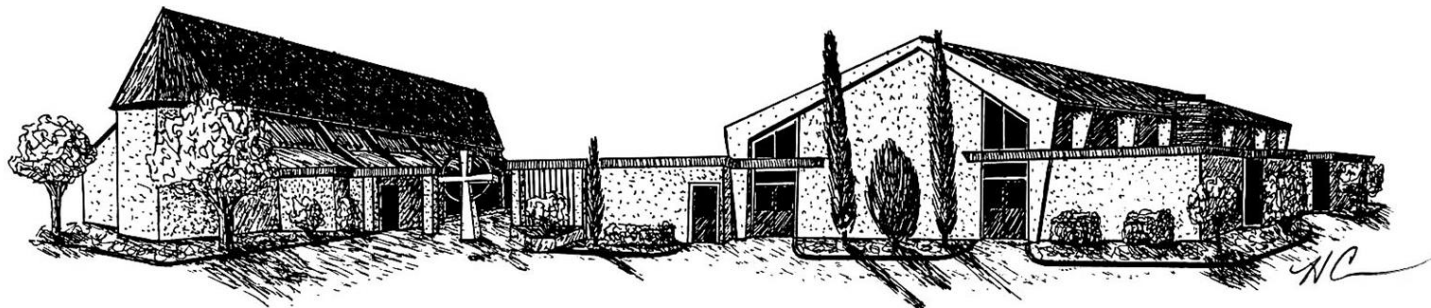


Lutheran Church of Our Savior



June 3, AD 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ of Lutheran Church of Our Savior,

As you know, we have been patiently waiting upon a change in local regulations for the return to worship on the premises of LCOS and in the company of the saints of LCOS, that we might hear again in-person the preaching of our Lord's Word and receive again the Holy Supper of Christ. On June 1 the Santa Clara County Public Health Director announced that, effective June 5, houses of worship could reopen, under certain restrictions.

While we anticipated restrictions, and these, of course, for the safe reopening of our worship life together (e.g., the maximum of 25 persons), we have found some of the restrictions to be onerous, some to challenge our centuries-old theological practice and time-honored tradition, and one potentially to be a violation of our members' right to privacy. For example, while the updated order allows for the partaking of ceremonial food (in our case, the Lord's Supper), the order forbids the use of the common cup (chalice). (As you may know, some Christians—including Lutherans—in receiving the Lord's blood partake of none but the common cup.) The updated order forbids singing (even though masks are mandated for near all participants). The updated order mandates that worship take place entirely outdoors. Finally, the updated order requires that places of worship collect the names (and contact info) of those in attendance and, if there should be one of the assembly who'd test positive for COVID-19, the appointed LCOS individual "shall assist the County Public Health Department in any case investigation and contact tracing associated with the gathering" (Santa Clara County order, Appendix C-2)—a requirement which, in the opinion of chief counsel of Pacific Justice Institute, is legally questionable, as this expectation may violate the First Amendment right to association and California's Constitution's right to associational privacy.

*Because we're attempting to understand and apply (as conscience, confession, and law permit) safety regulations, and because LCOS is presently still obtaining Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and supplies for adequate and reasonable safety measures, **we will not be hosting on-site services Sunday June 7, but hope to offer them on Sunday, June 14.** (Likely multiple service times would be required due to the capacity of 25 persons. We plan to notify you of forthcoming service offerings/opportunities, as sign-ups likely will be necessary. Further information to follow next week.)*

*While this is the case, we readily acknowledge that it's been more than two months since the Lord's Supper has been made available to the congregation, and many deeply desire it. **If you and your***

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member-household would like to receive Holy Communion, please contact Pastor John Bestul to schedule an appointment to receive it. (He, or another pastor of LCOS, will administer it.) Appointments available beginning Monday, June 8.

Our Lord grant us wisdom and faithfulness to navigate these times well, and God's Spirit preserve or revive in us the hunger and thirst for His righteousness.

*In Christ,
Pastor John Bestul
Pastor Adam Debner
Pastor D.E. Bestul*

Wednesday after Pentecost, 2020