

May 24, 2020

Dear Family and Friends of Resurrection Lutheran Church,

Greetings to each and every one of you as we bask in the enduring light of this Easter season. Alleluia, Christ is risen! (He is risen indeed! Alleluia!)

Now that our congregational survey results have come in and Governor Cooper has announced the latest in the phased approach to reopening in our state, allow me to note the following:

1. Half (321) of those receiving the church survey invitations (640 households) responded.
2. A surprising number of RLC survey respondents (18%) indicated the impossibility of returning to in-person worship at this time, even with social distancing protocols in place.
3. A high number of survey respondents gave positive feedback about the worship content currently being made available for remote viewing and would like to see it continue.
4. A relatively high number of survey respondents (67%) indicated an openness to worship in the church parking lot (assuming worship in the church sanctuary was not possible).
5. Though church worship has been exempted from Governor Cooper's executive orders on social distancing as a First Amendment right of North Carolina citizens, mass gatherings are still being defined by the government as gatherings of over 10 people indoors or 25 people outdoors.
6. We have received information from our church body regarding possible risks associated with singing or performing with wind instruments inside enclosed worship spaces (cf. [bit.ly/3d7Wdv7](https://bit.ly/3d7Wdv7)).
7. Absent any other guidelines from local government about gathering indoors, anything resembling a safe environment for in-person worship requires measures we believe either do not fully do away with the risks, are difficult to enforce, or are simply not worshipful (in addition to the article on music in worship, see also: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/faith-based.html?deliveryName=USCDC\\_2067-DM29085](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/faith-based.html?deliveryName=USCDC_2067-DM29085)).

At Resurrection, we will therefore deploy the following:

1. Transition from pre-produced worship content to a weekly worship live stream, held every Sunday in the main sanctuary, starting at 9 AM and beginning May 31;
2. Offer a weekly opportunity for in-person worship in the church parking lot, beginning June 7, at 10:30 AM;
3. Continue to make in-person reception of Holy Communion available to families or small groups of 9 or fewer in the church sanctuary, only do so now on a regular basis every Sunday from 1–5 PM, beginning May 31 (please use the sign-up genius to register [www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DABAE2EABFF2-holy](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DABAE2EABFF2-holy));
4. Continually assess the quality of worship being offered and determine when greater accessibility to in-person worship inside the church building might become feasible.

Our hearts yearn to be together in person. The day will soon come when that will be possible! In the meantime, please avail yourself of these opportunities for corporate worship and keep all of us in your prayers as we seek to serve you.

On behalf of Resurrection staff and volunteer servant leaders,  
Pastor Jonathan Blanke