

Zion Lutheran Church

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Greetings to the members and friends of Zion Lutheran Church of the Battlefords;

We are blessed with the removal of all public health orders in Saskatchewan as of this week, but COVID-19 has not gone away. People continue to be infected, to suffer and to succumb to this virus every week.

Our congregation is a diverse group: seniors, young families, adults, children; those who are well and those with health issues; those who are vaccinated and those who cannot or choose not to get vaccinated. Whomever you are, and whatever your situation, your safety and that of others in our congregation is our primary concern.

The Saskatchewan Synod held a Town Hall meeting today, and our recommendations are consistent with the Synod's suggestions. The following are Council's recommendations for safe worship practice as we move forward:

1. We continue to believe our health professionals when they tell us that vaccination is our best protection and defense. As such, we continue to encourage those who can, to get vaccinated and boosted.
2. We strongly recommend that all those participating in in-person worship continue to mask. We will re-evaluate this on a regular basis and we will continue to provide masks.
3. We encourage everyone to sanitize their hands as they enter the church.
4. Our worship assistants will sanitize and mask for communion.
5. The choir will be positioned differently in the provision of music ministry and will mask.
6. And finally, if you are feeling unwell, stay home and care for yourself first.

While the worship experience is gradually returning to the old normal, Facebook Live will continue for the immediate future, communion will be ushered and we will sing with great gusto! Sharing the Peace and sharing meals together will be phased back in over the next few months. Small group activities will also resume with the same recommendations listed above.

Public restrictions may have been removed, but as a caring, Christian community our individual responsibilities to our family and friends remain in place. Help us all to stay safe and healthy while we trust in God to manage the residual effects of the pandemic.

As stated above, this letter represents the recommendations of Council for a safe worship experience for all. We respect your right to choose and ask for your consideration of self and others in your decisions and actions.

Sincerely,

Zion Lutheran Church Congregational Council

Sherry Jimmy – Chairperson

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