



**Faith** Lutheran  
Church

Rev. Jean N. Kuebler, Pastor  
5414 East Lake Road  
Erie, PA 16511  
814-899-9653 (p)  
814-898-0428 (f)  
[www.faithlutheranerie.com](http://www.faithlutheranerie.com)  
[faithlutheranerie@gmail.com](mailto:faithlutheranerie@gmail.com)

November 30, 2020

Dear Faith friends,

With a heavy heart, I share the news that **we are suspending in-person worship from December 1, 2020 until at least January 17, 2021**, or until such time as the Covid-19 numbers are sufficiently reduced to gather safely once again. The congregational council has reached this decision after much prayer and careful deliberation. I believe this is the right thing to do at this time, in order to care for one another and to do what we can to help “flatten the curve”. The decision is also consistent with current guidelines from the CDC and from our county and state governments.

**Please join us for virtual worship this Advent and Christmas!** Midweek Advent services will be livestreamed on Facebook, Wednesday evenings, Dec. 2, 9, 16, and 23 at 7:00 p.m. The theme this year is especially apt: “Tidings of Comfort and Joy”. Weekend services will be posted on our website and on our Facebook and YouTube pages. Brian Gray will still be offering the online Carol Sing via Facebook livestream on Sunday, December 20 at 4:00 p.m. We will post an online version of Lessons and Carols during Christmas week. And we will record and post an online service for Christmas Eve. We will be posting bulletins for the virtual services on our website for those of you who like to follow along.

For those of you without easy internet access, **we have been sending weekly mailings** with the previous week’s sermon and a simple liturgy to use at home for the following Sunday. If you would like to be added to (or removed from) this mailing list, please call the church office. If you would like to be added to the Faith e-mail list (for receiving the Beacon and occasional announcements), please call or e-mail the office.

During these unprecedented times, we will do our best to extend the Lord’s Table to all who hunger for the sacrament. The pandemic may limit our options for gathering in-person, but we are still united in Christ’s body. In the current circumstances, **we are now offering “Communion-to-go” using pre-consecrated elements.** We will use the “Celebration Cups”, which are pre-packaged, hygienically-sealed individual servings of a wafer and grape juice. You may pick up the pre-consecrated elements (along with a brief liturgy for receiving communion) during church office hours. If you would like to have Communion-to-go delivered to your home, please call the church office at 899-9653 or call me directly at 717-440-3515.

**Pastoral care continues, even though it may look a little different these days!** I am willing to schedule one-on-one communion visits at the church or at your home, as circumstances allow (masked, distanced, outdoors, if possible). I am always available to talk or pray with you by



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phone, Zoom, or Facetime. I will continue to do hospital visits as needed, so long as the hospitals still permit clergy visitation, and I will continue to provide emergency pastoral care as needed.

**The church office will remain open** with the usual hours, Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Please wear a mask and observe social distancing if you visit the office.

**The Sunday Church School and the Faith Lutheran Preschool will remain open for now**, with all the current Covid-related precautions in place. We will remain responsive to local school district decisions and any new government guidelines. Church meetings will be held by Zoom as much as possible. Confirmation classes will be moving to Zoom for a while.

**Please remember to vote for council members** by December 6<sup>th</sup>. Ballots and ballot box are in the narthex. You also have the option of secure online voting through our website.

Even though we are going virtual, it would still be great to have some poinsettias to decorate the chancel for Christmas! **If you would like to order poinsettias, please call the church office ASAP.** You can order red, pink, or white for \$9.00 per plant, and dedicate them either in memory or in honor of a loved one.

**Thank you to all of you for your ongoing support of our ministry!** Our mission continues, even as our regular operating expenses continue. Even in this extraordinary year, we have been able to meet our budget thus far. Your faithful generosity is a tremendous blessing! Please continue to send in your offerings by mail or automatic withdrawal. If you have not yet sent in your commitment card for 2021, please do so. You may also make your financial commitment online with the secure and user-friendly form on our website.

Please be in touch with any questions or concerns. Know that you remain in my prayers and my heart.

I believe that God is good, that we will get through this, and that all manner of things shall be well. A blessed Advent and Christmas to you all!

In hope,

Rev. Jean N. Kuebler, pastor



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