



Worship Services to Resume

The Covid virus has caused us to be separated from each other for far too long and it is time for us to come to our spiritual home and worship together again! Because of the decrease in summer visitors and the use of our safety precautions, the Elders have decided that we will return to worship again on Sunday, September 27th. If you feel uncomfortable gathering pre-vaccine, please know that we understand and respect your decision.

In addition to marked social distancing and the use of face masks (provided by BLC), hand sanitizer stations are located around the facilities. We also can televise the service from the sanctuary into Fellowship Hall if additional space is required.

Temporary Changes in Worship Practices

Singing Restrictions – Given the potential for projecting viruses and the difficulty in singing with masks, singing will be restricted until there is a vaccine. Hymns and liturgical music will appear in the bulletin, but worshipers are invited to hum along or silently read the words as the music is played. On occasion, the congregation will be asked to read the verses in unison or follow along as the Music Director sings the hymn from the balcony.

Holy Communion Practices – The reception of the Sacrament of the Altar will occur after the Benediction allowing people who do not wish to participate to leave. After the Divine Service is over, the pastor will consecrate the elements of Holy Communion and the Distribution will begin. You will be ushered forward and sanitize your hands on the way to the Communion Table.

When you arrive, you will select a prepackaged “unit” of bread and wine which you take back to your pew. When everyone has received their “unit,” the pastor will say, “Take eat ...” and you are invited to peel off the bottom tab and receive the consecrated host (an unleavened square host). This will be repeated with the chalice. The pastor will say, “Take drink ...” and you will self-commune in the same manner.



Prior to reception, the pastor will ask if anyone needs him to bring the Sacrament to them or a family member may bring a "unit" back to the pew for the individual.

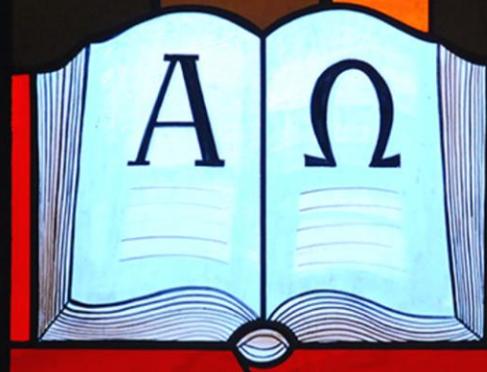
Theological Note – Although this looks like it would be the perfect means for delivering the Sacrament to the homebound by laity, our theology does not support the suggestion. In the Roman church, the belief is that the elements maintain the appearance of bread and wine as "accidents," but it is 100% Body and Blood of Christ and does not change back. Therefore, their Eucharistic ministers can bring the Sacrament to the homebound. For those of Zwinglian beliefs (Baptists and others), the elements never change and remain bread and wine/grape juice and serve as a means of remembering Christ, so there is no sacramental emphasis.



Lutherans believe that at some point in the Consecration (Verba), the Real Presence of Christ "is, with, and under" the physical elements of bread and wine. However, the bread and wine are still present. When the service is over, the Real Presence is no longer found in the physical elements. Or in the current explanation of this doctrine by the church, "The church is not, thereby, conferring upon the elements some abiding status apart from their use in the Lord's Supper itself."

Bible Study Series

The Book of Daniel



Wednesday Afternoon – Beginning September 30th at 1:30 PM, BLC will hold the Midweek Bible Class in Fellowship Hall. Although this will be "face to face," social distancing protocols will be observed.

Zoom Format – For those who work or do not feel comfortable being in a regular Bible Class, Pastor will hold an online Bible Study of Daniel so that the entire BLC Family is able to study this powerful OT book. There is so much more there than Daniel in the Lion's Den! Pastor is asking for a volunteer to "Zoom Host" the class so that he can use the pre-class time to set up for instruction. If you are interested in attending and/or hosting, please let Pastor know. It would be great if we could hold this on Wednesday evenings beginning on September 30th. However, this is a flexible date.