



Throughout the course of this past year addressing the challenges of the corona virus our guiding principle continues, *"We are given to serve both faithfully and responsibly in loving service and care for souls and the health and safety of our members and our neighbors in the world."* Courtesy and civility need to be considered as we navigate this pandemic together.

Health experts have expressed warning that the fall and winter months would be an extreme challenge especially in rural areas, which appears to be our current reality. The number of positive cases and deaths have grown exponentially. Since August 1, positive cases in Adams County have grown from seventy to 704 as of November 1. In the past three weeks, the number of positive cases has grown to 1,539. Those who have perished have increased from one fatality recorded on August 1 to eight as of November 1. In the past three weeks, the number of Adams County residents who have succumbed to this virus has grown to nineteen.

Since we have opened our church to in-person worship services, we have asked if anyone intends attending one of our two services to kindly register. We ask persons to do so that in the event that someone attends one of our services and tests positive with the Corona virus we can conduct responsible contact tracing. Thus far, we have not had to do this and we pray we will not have to do so. We have a system in place if we need to.

We will never turn anyone away from attending; however, as we are entering the fall and winter months, we anticipate the Corona virus to be active.

I am now asking everyone to be mindful that the virus continues to spread and vigilance is needed more than ever. Sanitation and social distancing protocols continue to be practiced. I must strongly encourage those in attendance to kindly wear a mask, for the sake of your neighbor and the greater community in which we live and serve. The heart of tomorrow's gospel are the words of Jesus, "inasmuch as you have done it to the least of these you have done it to me." Wearing a mask in church does not take away your Christian freedom; rather it is a way of expressing love and care.

To facilitate your needs we will live-stream our Sunday morning service as well as our Thanksgiving Eve and Thanksgiving Day Services. The Sunday morning services continue to be broadcast live on radio station WZBD 92.7

Kindest regards in Christ,

Pr. Dahling