

The Richland Word

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St. John Re-opening for Worship June 14

On Sunday, June 14th, St. John will be re-opening its doors for public worship! For members it will be a somewhat “new” worship service, as many small changes will be implemented to insure that we provide a safe and friendly worship experience for everyone.

It is important to note that these changes (i.e., “protocols”) will be in place beginning June 14th because we want to make our worship service available to the general public (i.e., anyone). Also these instructions/protocols are only for June 14 - July 26, and will be reviewed monthly by the Church Council until such monthly review is no longer needed. Also, pastoral care, including in-home Holy Communion, will continue to be available for anyone that would like it, upon request, by contacting the pastor. In addition, the worship service will be live-streamed, and in this way be made available to anyone with internet access.

The following are a sample of some of the instructions for St. John’s new worship service beginning June 14th.

- doors will open at 10:00 a.m.

(Continued on next page)

Christian Education Summer Plans for Children and Youth

On Sunday, June 14th, 5 children are leaving their homes for a week of outdoor activities, recreation, learning, and worship at Camp Lone Star, in La Grange. These campers will return on Friday, June 19th. Special thanks to Aubrey Hamann and Jenny Schuchmann for assisting at camp this year.

Looking ahead, “BOLT,” a 3-day Virtual VBS program is being planned for June 23rd through the 26th, with a possible parade on Friday. As many children as are interested may participate in this virtual VBS experience at no cost. Child will be supplied with materials provided by St. John, with games and activities utilized via a special website children are given access to. Parents are directed to St. John’s “In Touch” weekly messenger for confirmation of these dates and for registration information.

In addition to a virtual VBS experience, horseback riding, a movie night, and bowling for the younger kids are some of the things being planned for later in the summer.

For more information, contact Shannon Patrone at sjpatrone@gmail.com.

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Worship Assistants

As public worship resumes on Sunday, June 14th, so does opportunities to assist in the worship service!

If you’d like to assist in leading singing for the worship service, contact Helen Roithner by emailing her at teacherlady1004@yahoo.com.

If you’d like to assist by bringing a Children’s Lesson one Sunday, contact Kathy Pemberton by emailing her at karpemberton@hotmail.com.

If you’d like to assist by reading Scripture one Sunday, please contact Lois ShROUT by emailing her at loishrout@gmail.com.



Pastor's Page

It was a devastating blow to the faith and religious life of the children of Israel: their beloved central place for worship, the glorious Temple built by King Solomon,...THE place for worship, sacrifice, learning, and the presentations of tithes, offerings, and other gifts to God,...was totally destroyed by the Babylonians in 587 B.C.

Most of the population of the Southern Kingdom, except for some of the very poorest of the people, were re-located to

designated areas throughout the Babylonian empire, with this one saving concession: they were allowed to live together as a community, and freely gather to continue to pass on their faith, their teachings, their culture, their language, their history,...*their way of life.*

It's interesting to note that the synagogues...so prevalent through all four Gospels, where Jesus often went to teach, were developed during the Babylonian exile. The synagogue became THE place of worship, learning,

and fellowship for the Israelites while in exile, and they brought the synagogue system with them when they returned to their Promised Land B.C. 539.

St. John is returning to worship together on June 14th after a brief exile. What have we learned through this time? What will we bring with us?

How about a new appreciation for your brothers and sisters in Christ? A new love for Christ and His Church?

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“St. John Re-opening
for Worship June 14”

(instructions for worship)

- *those who are sick should remain at home. These, as well as others that belong to a vulnerable population group, are encouraged to participate at home via St. John's online service.*
- *face masks should be worn, covering nose and mouth, whenever conversing with someone, and especially when inside the sanctuary.*
- *Social distancing of 6ft should be observed at all times.*
- *hand-sanitizer and face masks will be available outside the sanctuary, before entering the sanctuary.*

- *ushers will be present to greet worshippers as they arrive, but are instructed to make no physical contact. (e.g., no handshakes)*
- *an usher outside will usher in a single individual, couple, or family...at a time.*
- *once inside, another usher will guide the worshipper(s) to the next available seating area, where bulletins will already be placed.*
- *Once seated in pews, movement will be limited during the service, to insure social distancing is maintained. (E.g., during the Greetings, worshippers are asked to remain in place, and simply turn around and acknowledge and greet those around them, without making physical contact.)*

- *The offering will be received informally using a receptacle placed near the entry of the sanctuary, and can be used as worshippers enter or leave.*

New instructions for the celebration of Holy Communion will be discussed and approved by the Church Council later this month, and be available after Tuesday, June 9th. The first celebration of Holy Communion will be in July.

A complete list of St. John's new health and safety protocols for worship, approved by the Church Council for June and July, are available on St. John's website, or can be mailed upon request by calling the church office.

Women's Guild News

It has been such a different and strange time for us all. It is hard to plan anything and things are still up in the air.

We are trying to be hopeful and we praise and bless all the people out there in the front dealing with all the illness, etc.

If and when the Women's Guild plans a meeting or function, we will advertise it, letting everyone know.

We miss everyone!
Peace and love!

Property Maintenance

Thank you, Rodney Gebert, for spraying the parking areas of the church to kill the grass there.

Thanks to the Property Committee for the new, automatic faucets installed in both restrooms.

Thanks also to the Property Committee for repairing the clock that hangs in the sanctuary, and taking care of a problem we had with bees.

Thanks also to Rodney Gebert and family on all the mowing of St. John Cemetery.

Thanks also to the Patrone family for all their work mowing and trimming all around the parsonage, sanctuary, and parish hall during this time.

Ronald Roithner is the chair of St. John's Property Committee. Thank you, Ronald!

Crafting w/ Friends



We are looking forward to when we can get together once again. We've had some time to think about what we can create next and work on as a group. (Thank you to all those that have worked on making face masks for area healthcare agencies, as well as for members and others!)

We have all been working on projects at home, but we are itching to get out, while of course using masks to be safe.

We will try to have our first meeting in June on the 27th, at 10:00 a.m. in the hall. We hope it works out for everyone.

We can certainly continue to wear masks, and whatever makes you feel comfortable. We can talk about our ideas and we do have a quilt top to work on. And I have some things and ideas to share with everyone as well! I look forward to seeing you all. If you have not attended any of our gatherings, come join us and bring your ideas.

Be safe and well everyone!
Peace and love, Sandy Brunton



With Sympathy

Our Christian sympathy to the family of Jan Prater. Jan passed away on April 29th. She was buried in St. John Cemetery next to her husband, Bob, on May 8th.

We also express our Christian sympathies to Mary Overstreet and family on the death of her husband, Leslie James, on Thursday, May 14th. May the presence of the Holy Spirit and the promise of the Gospel be their comfort and hope during this time of loss.



To Crafting Friends

On behalf of the over 275 healthcare workers associated with Alabama Oncology and the cancer patients we care for; we want to say thank you



for your selfless and thoughtful donation of masks to our team. We have struggled to find adequate supplies, your donation meant so much to us. It inspires us to pay it forward! Blessings to you all!

Chris Barnes



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LCMC

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church of Richland (SJR) is a member of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ. For more information about LCMC, visit their website at www.lcmc.net



«First Name» «Last Name»

«Address»

«City», «State» «Zip»

LCMC TEXAS DISTRICT ANNUAL GATHERING

July 31 – August 1, 2020

Hosted by Our Saviour's in Victoria

Registration opened May 1st



Registration for the annual LCMC Texas District Gathering opened May 1st. Keynote speakers this year include Dave Drum from J17 Ministries (Tucson, AZ), Rick & Robyn Bezanson from Amazing Grace (Glendale, AZ), and Ted Doering from Narrative Church (Round Rock, TX). Go to the Texas District's website, www.lcmctexas.org, to register and for more information.

The Texas District now offers a new training resource for individuals interested in becoming future church leaders.

Visit HarvestWorkers.net to learn more!

Safety Issues for Our Church

St. John now has plenty of hand sanitizer available, as well as face masks and gloves.

It is important to make everyone feel comfortable while in the house of our Lord. Protection and safety are number one.

Please be familiar with St. John's new protocols for worship. A summary of those protocols are printed on pages 1-2 in this newsletter, as well as posted in various locations around St. John's property. A complete list of these new practices and procedures are available on St. John's website, and can also be mailed upon request.

Hope to see you soon!

