



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

# Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Dear People of Trinity,

As many of you know, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) once again updated its guidance on mitigation practices regarding coronavirus and its spreading variants. Trinity's Council met to review and discern our path forward this past Wednesday.

At the writing of this letter, the CDC currently recommends that in locations of substantial or high transmission, both unvaccinated and vaccinated individuals wear masks when gathering indoors. Adams County is currently in the substantial category for its rate of transmission.

As Council spoke, we considered many things. We spoke of the weariness we feel, and the obligation we feel to continue serving every member, young and old, with a place they can safely worship. In the end we decided to continue following CDC guidelines, just as we have been. We also decided to continue singing together, indoors and outdoors.

This means that, until further notice, Trinity will wear masks for all indoor ministries. In addition, in an effort to continue reaching toward more familiar moments, we will resume our 8am and 10:15am services September 5<sup>th</sup> and resume Sunday School as well. The familiar can be a balm, even as masks reappear for a moment, and we're hopeful for the ways we might meet the risen Christ in these long appreciated moments.

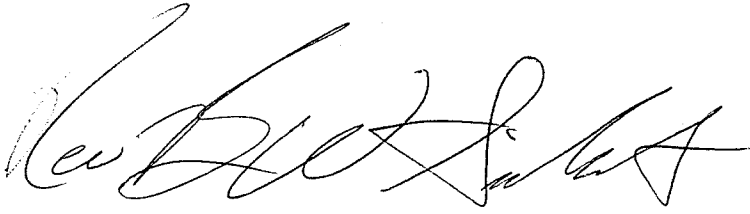
I'd like to write, on a personal note, how much I have needed this summer time. A time of putting down masks, seeing others, worshipping together in song and seeing your wonderful faces! It reaffirmed for me what we already know; our worship together is life giving, as is our communion with one another. I want nothing more than for this all to end, and for our lives to be filled with the central things of faith. And yet, I recognize the importance of the work we do to end this pandemic as well.

While I am disappointed to have to go back to mask wearing while indoors, I still support and affirm it. While I am frustrated with the way discourse around how to get out of this pandemic seems more political than sensible, I still have hope for our communities. While I am deeply tired of this leg of our journey, I still press on.

Thank you to each of you for the sacrifices you have made in the effort to end this pandemic. I know these efforts are not easy, and often so thankless. Know that I appreciate you, that Council appreciates your work, and that so many in our congregation appreciate the effort you have put forth as well.

We'll make it through, by God's grace. It really is the only way.

Peace,  
Pastor Ben

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben", written in a cursive style.

**Joining Sunday Worship Online:**

To join Sunday Morning Worship, you can use any computer, tablet, or smartphone with the link provided on our homepage at [trinityarendtsville.org](http://trinityarendtsville.org).

OR

Use the following steps for any type of phone (landline included):

1. Dial: 1 312 626 6799
2. When asked, enter the Meeting ID: 899 9238 9773
3. If asked, enter the passcode: 962887
4. To be able to speak, press \*6.
5. To stop speaking, press \*6 again.