

In fact, that is how the first verse of Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus ends as it refers to Christ as "joy of every longing heart." Our hearts are longing right now. In that longing we find joy. A joy we can experience even in the worst of times. A joy that nothing can ever take away. I hope your longing hearts can find that joy right now. I hope your tears of sadness can be turned to tears of joy. For Christ has come. Christ is here. Christ is with you. You are loved. Know that and let it give you joy. Life may be hard, but Christ has come. You always have a reason for joy.



In Person Worship

Beginning in February we will once again be offering worship in person. In order to do so safely we ask that everyone familiarize themselves with the worship guidelines and follow them as we gather together. As the vaccine makes its way into our community I, like many of you, am hopeful things can get back to normal. Yet, it will take time and we need to remain cautious. I look forward to worshipping with you again though as we use the necessary precautions to ensure the safety of all who attend.

Indoor Worship Guidelines

If you are feeling ill in any way, please do not attend.

We ask that you wear a mask as you come to worship in the building. While not 100% effective they do significantly decrease the chances of spreading the virus. As being in the building forces us into an enclosed space it is important to take this necessary precaution. If you have issues wearing one, please continue to stay home and watch the service online.

Practicing social distancing guidelines – We will have every other pew roped off to ensure 6 ft between people.

Please also sit on the opposite side of the pew as the people in front of you in order to stagger and better distance from one another. We have plenty of space to accommodate our average worship attendance.

As you arrive at the church sit in the pew furthest towards the front. I know this will be hard for you good Lutherans out there, but yes begin at the actual front of church. At the conclusion of the service we will exit single file beginning with the back rows. Please be patient and keep your distance from one another as entering and exiting.

Due to the increased risk of infection posed by singing, we will only be having special music performed during our services. Please do not sing along.

We also ask that you do not vocalize spoken parts of the service, such as the Apostles Creed and the Lord's Prayer. You may repeat them silently or quietly to yourself but do not project your voice so that others can hear you.

As you enter the sanctuary there will be a table with sealed communion kits that include a wafer and a cup of grape juice, please grab one and go to your seat. Do not touch any cups other than the one you take with you. During the appropriate time you will be instructed to unseal your communion first with the wafer and then the grape juice.

There will be baskets for you to leave your offering as you enter or exit the church. If you must use the bathroom please use the provided disinfectant to clean surfaces once you are finished. There will be hand sanitizer available throughout the church, please use it! We will still not be handing out bulletins but the service will be projected on our screen for you to follow along. Obviously, there will be no sharing of the peace, shaking of hands, hugging, or other contact, nor will there be fellowship time or shared food.

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting will be held on February 14 after our worship service. This meeting will be conducted in person while simultaneously live streamed through facebook. You may participate through whichever means you would prefer. We will include the votes of those participating online into our total tally.



Ash Wednesday



We will have an in person worship service on Wednesday February 17 for Ash Wednesday. During which Ashes will be applied as you enter the sanctuary through use of individual cotton swabs. We will also be offering the imposition of ashes during the day in a drive-through fashion. Pastor Jeremy will be outside from 12-1 as well as 4-5 for those who would like to receive ashes without coming to the service.

Lenten Worship

We will not be having in person midweek lenten services this year. Pastor Jeremy will instead be posting a short video every Wednesday throughout Lent on facebook and youtube. During these videos we will learn the history of some of our favorite hymns, many of which have fascinating back stories that further deepen their meaning. There will also be a time of prayer and singing. May these short worship experiences be an uplifting part of your lenten disciplines this year.



Ministerial Lenten Worship

Perry Ministerial will not be offering midweek lenten services this year. Instead there will be a short written devotion sent out every week done by a different area minister. Look for these in your email or let Pastor Jeremy know if you would like a written copy sent to you.

Offering Envelopes

For those that use offering envelopes you will find them in your mail box at church.



Sunday School

Sunday School will continue to meet throughout the rest of this school year. If we are worshiping in-person we will also have in person Sunday School following worship. We will also offer an online option for parents who would like to have their kids take part that way. Please let Pastor Jeremy or Meg Menke know how you would like to participate.

February 7	The Boy at the Temple
February 21	John the Baptist
March 7	Jesus Goes to Nazareth
March 21	The Disciples
April 4	Four Friends *Easter
April 18	Ten Men Healed
May 2	The Good Samaritan
May 16	The Lost Sheep and Lost Coin



Church App

This is a great time to check out our church app. On the app, you can watch worship services every week. You can give your offering. You can also keep in touch with one another through our prayer wall. Here anyone can post prayer requests or just things you are thinking about. You can put your name with it or just post things anonymously. Others can then comment on them and share their feelings as well. It is a great way to keep each other informed on things we are going through during this difficult time. There is a link to the app on our website.



Offering

As you worship with us I ask that you please remember to continue giving your offerings every week. This is something you can easily do online as well. Click the link on the front page of our website to quickly and easily set up an online giving account. Or you can mail your checks to the church during the weeks we will not be meeting in person.

Prayer List

Prayers are powerful and as a church we want to be sure that whenever anyone in our family is hurting we are lifting them up in prayer. So please feel free to contact Pastor Jeremy with any prayer concerns you may have. These may be for yourself or for people you care about, members or not.



Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes - January 20, 2021

Present: Pastor Jeremy, Sally, Jill, Meg, Paula, Rusty, Nicole

Officers Elected: Matt Hardy – President

Meg Menke – Vice President

Nicole Hayes – Secretary

Worship Decisions:

-Pending the evaluation of Covid numbers in Perry on January 29th we will begin in-person worship again on February 7, 2021. Live streamed services will continue to be available as well.

-In-person services will follow the same protocols that were previously in place (masks, spaced seating and hand sanitizer)

-Positive Covid numbers in Perry will be evaluated weekly to determine if in-person worship will continue.

Sunday School:

-Sunday school will be in-person starting on February 7th, too.

Lenten Services: -Lenten services will be done on-line only.

Ash Wednesday:-If we are having in-person services at this time, Ash Wednesday service will be held in-person as well as live streamed on February 17th.

-Pastor Jeremy will also have a few times during the day when people can remain in their cars at the church and he will apply their ashes for them.

Annual Meeting:

-The annual meeting will be held after church on February 14th, 2021. If we are in-person at this time the meeting will be held in-person with the option of joining online. If we are not having worship in-person, the meeting will be held entirely online.

Property Report:

-All storm damage has been repaired.

-A corner of the roof is leaking and has rotted wood under the shingles that needs to be repaired.

Finance Report:

-The church is in good shape financially.

Committee Changes:

-Faith Formation Committee – Meg Menke and Nicole Hayes

-Worship and Fine Arts Committee – Paula Nelson and Caitlynn Lamm

-Fellowship and Care Committee- Sally Radke and Jill Onnen

-Property Committee – Rusty Burgett and Matt Hardy

Next Church Council Meeting: Wednesday, February 24th at 7:00pm.