

# St Paul Ev. Lutheran Church

14026 N. 500th St Altamont, Illinois. 62411  
Pastor David R Speers

6/2/2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus our Lord,

I am writing to you, a fourth time as we, the members of St Paul Blue Point, look forward to beginning to open up to larger services. The governor has offered suggested guidelines to the churches in Illinois, asking them to be conscientious and careful as we begin to gather for Divine Service. The elders and Pastor met on Sunday, June 1st, and have come to the conclusion that we will begin to open up slowly, beginning with services that try to stay at or around 25% of capacity, which is about 60-70 people depending on social distancing guidelines. So, like some of the other local churches, we are going to begin by **holding services this coming Sunday at 9:30 AM and 11 AM**. Each service will aim for 25% of capacity with appropriate social distancing. We will also continue to hold services on **Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 7 PM**. For those who are reticent to come to a larger gathering, we recommend coming on Tuesday or Thursday evening. So here is what we are asking you to do to make sure that this will take place as smoothly and considerately as possible.

1. **Please take the initiative to let us know when you would like to attend.** To do this, please call or text or message Beth Speers (for contact info, see below) and let her know when you intend to come. If the service is too heavily scheduled, we will ask you to schedule at a different time. If there is a need for another service we will schedule another service later on Sunday afternoon or Saturday. Please do not be afraid to ask. We need to schedule these services, at least some time, so please cooperate.
- 2.) **The elders ask that the members of the congregation,** as they consider their desire for communion, please contact Beth Speers via the church facebook site to schedule for communion. If that is not possible, please call or text Beth at 217-821-3507 or leave a message on the church phone 618-483-6993. (please do not call Pastor to schedule for these services, unless you want to schedule outside of these times, say on a weekday morning, afternoon etc).
3. **Private communion and visits with Pastor continue to be available as needed** and as can be scheduled. We encourage you to call Pastor if you have any needs and especially if you would like communion and have not been able to schedule a time. (Pastor's cell is 618-367-2697)
4. **Sermons and bible studies will be available on the internet through the church's** facebook page, the church's website, and through Zoom. If you are interested in participating in the Wednesday morning bible study speak to pastor. We will begin to meet for Sunday morning bible study on Sunday, June 14th at 8:30 AM.

5. Please continue to faithfully send your offerings to our financial secretary, Miles Kopplin, at **Miles Kopplin 11260 N. 300th St Altamont, Illinois 62411**
6. The church website, [www.stpaulbluepoint.org](http://www.stpaulbluepoint.org) will have resources such as recordings of sermons, bulletins, and calendars. Please be patient about this resource, as updating it is dependent on the schedule of the pastor. If he is busy, the website will be slow in being updated. The synod is also putting up many resources on its website [www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org) and so use this address to take advantage of them.
7. **The elders will try to have calendars, financial reports, and a weekly bulletin** in the mailbox of each member by Sunday afternoon. If there are other resources that you need, would like to have, please talk to Pastor.
8. **The following are the guidelines that the elders** would ask you to keep in mind as you prepare to come to church;
  - a. No one should think it is wrong to continue to worship at home until the illness has further subsided. We will continue provide resources on Facebook and the church website.
  - b. Enter any door
  - c. Sanitize your hands upon entering
  - d. Avoid all physical contact
  - e. Sit with your family six feet apart from others
  - f. Masks are encouraged but not required
  - g. Handouts will be at the door of the Church
  - h. There will be a collection plate at the door, please use that or send your offering in the mail to Miles Kopplin, information above.
  - i. Communion will be offered with smaller tables, with the common cup available for those who prefer it.

If you have any needs, please do not hesitate to call Pastor Speers at 618-367-2697.

Again, here are the following resources

Pastor Speers 618-367-2697 Cell.

618-483-6993 Church

Beth Speers 217-821-3507

[www.stpaulbluepoint.org](http://www.stpaulbluepoint.org)

Facebook-[St. Paul Blue Point Lutheran Church](https://www.facebook.com/St.Paul.Blue.Point.Lutheran.Church)

God's richest blessings to you and your family, as we begin to gather in our beautiful sanctuary

In Christ, **Pastor David Speers and the Elders of St Paul**