

## Small Group Holy Communion Scheduled at Good Shepherd May 16

The state of Illinois has modified its directives regarding the stay-at-home order. As of May 1, churches are now allowed to have religious gatherings of 10 or less people while proper social distancing guidelines are followed. This will allow us to offer small group communion at Good Shepherd.

We will seek to practice this in love, doing all we can to create a safe environment for those who participate. For example, the person preparing the communion elements will practice proper hygiene when setting up communion and Pastor Bergemann will wear a facemask when distributing the elements.

In addition, in love we will not judge anyone who does not feel comfortable with coming to receive communion at this time. If you are feeling ill or have concerns about your health, please remain home. We encourage you to partake of God's written Word, to remember and relish the blessings of your baptism, and to look forward to a time in the future when you may join us to commune again.

For our first small group communion services, Pastor Bergemann will offer communion to groups of nine or less (Pastor will be the 10<sup>th</sup> person) on Saturday, May 16 from noon to 4 pm. In order to make sure that we fit under the governmental regulations, we ask that you would sign up for a time slot via Signup Genius at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e45afa92cabfa7-good>

The time slots are as follows:

### **Saturday, May 16**

Noon - 12:15 pm  
12:20 - 12:35 pm  
12:40 - 12:55 pm

1:00 - 1:15 pm  
1:20 - 1:35 pm  
1:40 - 1:55 pm

2:00 - 2:15 pm  
2:20 - 2:35 pm  
2:40 - 2:55 pm

3:00 - 3:15 pm  
3:20 - 3:35 pm  
3:40 - 3:55 pm

If you or someone in your friend or family group is unable to access a computer to sign up for a slot, please call the church office at 630-852-1519 and we will assist you in scheduling a time.

Here is what you can expect when you come to church to receive the Lord's Supper.

1. Please remember "Social Distancing." As much as Pastor would love to shake your hand, everyone will keep a distance of six feet from each other (except to distribute the Lord's Supper).
2. Enter through the main doors of the church. Someone will be there to open the door for you. You will not need to touch the door handle.
3. Register your name. Someone will be present to check your name off the sign-up sheet. Please tell the person who you are as he/she checks you in.
4. If you are bringing your offering, you can place it in the offering plate located on the table where we normally have our service folders.
5. As individuals enter into the Sanctuary, bulletins with the order of service will be available.
6. Individuals and family units may sit in the front pews of church, while still keeping social distancing in mind. We encourage all to wear face coverings or masks, and only remove them for eating and drinking the elements.
7. When all are gathered, Pastor Bergemann will begin the communion service. When it is time to receive the Sacrament, he will invite participants to come forward to the communion rails. The participants may stand or kneel.
8. Pastor Bergemann will place the bread and the individual cup into the communicant's hand. The communicant will place the individual cup into one of the cup holders in the communion rail when finished.
9. After the distribution of communion, a brief spoken thanksgiving, prayer and blessing will conclude the service. Pastor Bergemann will then invite the participants to exit through the side door of the church to the parking lot. This will reduce chances of people congregating in the narthex. If a communicant needs to exit through the main doors of church to use the handicapped accessible ramp, they are invited to do so.

At this time, it is our plan to offer this opportunity for communion during our regularly scheduled "communion weeks" (the first and third weeks of the month). We will consider expanding these opportunities to accommodate more people if needed.

It is our prayer that God will richly bless you during this celebration of the Lord's Supper. We give you these instructions ahead of time in an attempt to remove distractions and allow you to focus on what you are receiving during your time at church.

May your participation in the Lord's Supper bring you the peace and strength that Jesus offers through it.

In Christ,

The Worship Committee of Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church