



September 2, 2021

Greetings Members and Friends at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church,

On August 27<sup>th</sup>, the Luce-Mackinac-Alger-Schoolcraft Health Department issued the following Public Health Advisory:

*“LMAS District Health Department is issuing this Public Health Advisory in response to the rapidly rising COVID cases in the District. There are 31 separate outbreaks in the Upper Peninsula, associated with long term care, healthcare facilities, religious services, sporting events, restaurants, private gatherings, and workplaces.”*

*“In this Public Health Advisory, LMAS District Health Department is advising the following actions:*

- 1. Get your COVID vaccination as soon as possible. Appointments are available for anyone age 12 and older. Schedule online at [LMASDHD.org](http://LMASDHD.org) or contact your local hospital or pharmacy.*
- 2. Wear a mask in all indoor settings when around people who do not live in your immediate household, regardless of vaccination status.*
- 3. Maintain distance from those not in your household.*
- 4. Stay home when you don't feel well and get tested for COVID.*
- 5. Wash your hands, thoroughly and often.*
- 6. Isolate if you test positive and follow the instructions from the health department.*
- 7. Quarantine if you are identified as a close-contact of someone with COVID. If you are fully vaccinated and have no symptoms, you will not need to quarantine.*
- 8. Get your flu shot as soon as possible.”*

Due to the rise in COVID-19 cases in our area along with the Delta variant which, according to LMAS, “is twice as infectious as the original virus we were dealing with a year ago”, the Church Council is immediately requiring the following:

- All persons entering the church **must** wear a mask or face covering. Masks will be available at the door if you forget yours. Please remember to bring your mask each Sunday.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at the door and you are required to use it upon entry.
- Please refrain from hugging or shaking hands.
- Please choose a seat away from everyone excluding family that you have been with for at least two weeks. Printed bulletins will be placed in the pews maintaining a 6-foot social distancing requirement. Please sit only where there is a bulletin. Additionally, when entering the church or leaving afterward, please, again, maintain the 6-foot social distancing requirement.
- Fellowship in the building is suspended at this time. Weather permitting, please feel free to gather outside while maintaining a 6-foot social distancing requirement.
- We will sing the hymns but you must keep your mask on.
- You may remove your mask briefly to receive Holy Communion.

**And, as always....**

- **Please stay home if you are feeling ill, have been around anyone that isn't feeling well, or you have underlying health issues.**
- **Please stay home if you have tested positive for the COVID-19 within two weeks before attending worship.**
- **Please stay home if you have been recently tested for COVID-19 and are waiting for the results.**

**We pray that these requirements are only for a short time but we feel this is necessary in order to protect the health and safety of our members and friends.**

**If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of the Church Council Members or Pastor Melinda at (906) 291-0897.**