

UPDATE #52
5/21/2020

Contact info: church@stlorenz.org or mbrandt@stlorenz.org
652-6141

- “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Matthew 22:39

“In humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.” Philippians 2:3-4

- Luther’s Morning Prayer

“I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.”

- It’s still our 175th anniversary year!

- While some events and activities have been postponed or canceled and others likely will be as well, we can still rejoice in 175 years of ministry. Check out the large banner on the WEC. Our St. Lorenz Foundation has provided funding for much of the expense associated with this anniversary year.

- Survey

- Almost 500 people took the survey yesterday. There is still time for you to do so. One interesting statistic: approximately 40% of respondents said they intend to return to worship at the first opportunity.

- Administrative Pastor Call

- At its meeting on May 18th, Ministry Council determined a three-stage process for calling our next Administrative Pastor.
 - An information letter will be sent to all congregation members. That letter will also solicit your comments/questions.
 - At 7:00 p.m. on June 4th, we will conduct a web-cast “town hall” meeting to provide more info and to address questions or comments that have been submitted. Additional time following the web-cast will be allowed for follow-up questions or comments. Those will probably be addressed via an email sent to all our members.

- A referendum vote using both electronic and hard-copy ballots to agree or disagree with Council recommendation. Deadline for casting your vote will be 5:00 p.m. on June 10th.
 - Council has a strong desire to protect the privacy of those who are on our call list. We are working to develop a process that provides all the information our members need in order to make an informed decision, while doing our best to keep that information from being shared outside of our congregation. Your cooperation will be necessary.
- When/how will we gather again for worship?
 - **When**
 - In-person worship services will resume on the last weekend in May. Times will be the same as before the “Stay at Home” order went into effect. Monday night services in the Grove will also begin that weekend. (Monday is June 1st.)
 - **How**
 - Maximum of 225 people in the church and in the Worship and Event Center.
 - Parking lot worship for those who prefer to worship in their cars.
 - Short-range FM radio transmission
 - Live-stream video for those with smart phones
 - Pre-registration by phone or on-line will be necessary for each service. We plan to open that up by the end of this week.
 - Worshipers will be expected to wear a face mask while entering and exiting the service and are welcome to leave their mask on for the entire service.
 - Worshipers will be greeted at the door with a volunteer equipped with a spray bottle and hand sanitizer.
 - Worshipers will be ushered to their seats, which will be the next available safe-seating area.
 - Offerings will be received in a basket at the door as worshipers leave.
 - Communion will be available in individually packaged containers on tables at the very end of the service.
 - Seating areas will be sanitized to the best of our ability between services.
 - We are discussing what kind of congregational singing, if any, would be encouraged.

Please realize that it will be impossible for us to keep COVID-19 out of the church or Worship and Event Center once we open our doors again. The best we can do is try to stop it from being spread through our gatherings. We will need everyone’s cheerful cooperation to do that.

In order to be as efficient as possible in getting people into church and in doing some sanitizing between services, we will need many volunteers.

Training sessions will be held one or two evenings next week for all volunteers at both the church and the Worship and Event Center.

If you would like to volunteer to be one of the parking lot greeters or “hand-spritzers” at the doors or to wipe down seating areas between services, please contact me ASAP at mbrandt@stlorenz.org

Please do not in ANY way feel pressure from any of us to attend in-person worship services. If you have ANY reason to stay home or to worship from your car in the parking lot, please know that could be a great way to love your neighbor. Not only does it keep you safe, it also frees up a seat in the church or the Worship and Event Center.

- Ask the Pastor
 - A new feature on our morning broadcasts: once a week, I will answer any question that I’m able to that has been submitted by anyone tuning into the broadcast. I will state your question, but will not unmask the identity of the one who asked it.
 - Questions may be sent to:
 - mbrandt@stlorenz.org
 - church@stlorenz.org
 - Posted on our St. Lorenz Facebook Live broadcast thread

- May we help you? Call 652-6141 or write church@stlorenz.org
 - We have 24 “runners” who will happily run errands for you.
 - Prayer assistance is also readily available. We have 50 people who are eager to pray for you. Email nanzee1@aol.com or call or text 818-497-3843. We can also forward requests sent to the church office.
 - Stephen Ministers can provide a listening ear and much more. Contact the church office.
 - CrossRoads Counseling Ministries can be reached at 652-0764 to access telephone sessions or video sessions.

- Worth repeating:
 - Tell someone about these broadcasts.

 - Tell someone about our Runners (or make use of them yourself). They will gladly:

- Pick up groceries or prescriptions
 - Deliver a Portals of Prayer
 - Other pick-ups or deliveries as requested
 - Pick up offering envelope at your home and deliver to church office
- Our Frankenmuth city leaders are doing an outstanding job of gathering information and ways to help. Please check these web sites for updates and resources:
 - www.frankenmuthcity.com
 - www.frankenmuth.org
 - www.muthserves.com