

Pastor Perry's Update
Thursday January 14, 2021

Hello parishioners of the LAAMB,

Hope you and you family are well. Many of you probably heard about the new safety restrictions from our Premier Doug Ford. Let me give you a summary of the announcement I was sent.

Enhancing Public Health & Workplace Safety Measures in the Province wide
Shutdown Declaring a provincial emergency

- Restricting mobility
- Reducing outdoor gathering limits
- Closing additional workplaces and
- introducing mitigation measures for those that remain open
- Increasing enforcement

All provincial offences officers, including police officers, will have the authority to disperse crowds indoors as well as outdoors. For example, when a group of more than five people who are not from the same household are gathering outdoors, they can be required to leave and the premise may be closed. Similar to the provision under ROA, individuals have a duty to identify when a police officer has reasonable and probable grounds that an offence under EMCPA has been committed.

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Work from Home Except Where Necessary

Each person responsible for a business or organization that is open shall ensure that any person who performs work for the business or organization conducts their work remotely, with limited exception, for instance, where the nature of their work requires them to be on-site at the workplace.

Organized Public Events and Social Gatherings (including Religious Services, Rites or Ceremonies), Schools, Child Care, Post -Secondary Institutions and Day Camps, Wedding Services, Funeral Services and other religious services, rites or ceremonies where physical distancing can be maintained and in compliance with rules on face coverings:

- 10 people indoors • 10 people outdoors

Drive-in services, rites or ceremonies permitted, subject to certain conditions Virtual on-line services are permitted. The enhanced public health and workplace safety measures are in effect for all of Ontario and are anticipated to be in place until at least Thursday, February 11, 2021.

As you can see there are stricter measures than we had before.

In also looking at the recommendations from our Anglican Diocesan Office and the Lutheran Eastern Synod we are looking at doing the following at our churches.

First and foremost, let's practice being safe in all situations of our lives. This also means- No matter what church building we enter everyone must sign the contact tracing sheet so that if we need to contact people we can do so. These forms are to be forwarded to the Parish Office when filled (minimum monthly); where we are required to maintain them for a period of 3 years. They can be mailed, dropped off or scanned and emailed. Also, please wear a mask and social distance at all times.

At this point, Charlotte our office coordinator will be allowed to come to the church office as an exception to the rule because her internet is not always reliable at her home and she does 95% of her work on the computer and the internet. However, both our Bishops have recommended that we do not have people visiting the church office unless under extreme circumstances.

We are also asking people to refrain from using the office at other times during the week, during this provincial emergency so that we can keep Charlotte safe. Although she does clean surfaces in her office, pens, doorknobs, phone etc. during this pandemic we must limit potential exposure to her and to you. Also keeping in mind that during this extraordinary time as you know, Charlotte's work load has increased; therefore, we want to limit the interruptions. So, we are also asking people to please phone before coming to the office to pick up or drop off something for her. She can make arrangements with people how this can be done in the safest way.

In terms of counting money, utilizing any of our church buildings two people are allowed to social distance, wearing masks getting the job done and then leaving the building.

Thanks to the Lutheran Eastern Synod and the fact that we are doing our on-line virtual worship in a Lutheran church we will continue to be safe allowing only a maximum of five people who are participating in the service.

Therefore, we will continue all the other things we are doing. The God's coffee hour, the daily meditations from the LAAMB and being conscious of including people who do not have computers.

Should you have any questions please feel free to e-mail me or phone any of the wardens. Let's continue to be vigilant in our safety procedures because it is about saving lives that our Lord's work is all about. We share in that calling to be respectful of every human being.

Thank you for adhering to all these new things that we are called to do to defeat this virus and continue to allow others to see God's many blessings in the work of sharing the Good News

Yours in the ministry we share,

Pastor Perry

perry_chuipka@hotmail.com

519-534-2607