

# COVID-19 Taskforce Recommendation Letter

Prepared by: Pastor Shawn Berkebile & the Covid-19 Taskforce

Prepared for: St. John's Lutheran Church

Date: May 27, 2020

Taskforce Members: Michele Trent (Co-Chair), Pastor Shawn Berkebile, Donna Renaut, Donna King, Mindy Shively, Shannon Gruver, Jennifer Laughman, Angie Sharrer and Paul Minnich (Co-Chair).



Dear Brothers and Sister's in Christ,

The COVID-19 Task Force has been formed to assist the church council in determining how and when to reopen the church building for worship services and other activities in the face of the coronavirus pandemic. Please note that St. John's will be changing our worship time to 10:00am starting June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

The Task Force takes many factors into consideration (CDC guidelines, PA guidelines and our congregation's best interests) prior to making any decisions, to keep everyone safe.

In-person worship including Holy Communion and face-to-face interaction has been greatly missed by our members over the past two months. Reassembling in the sanctuary is the utmost desire of the Task Force, the Council, and the leaders of the congregation. But we cannot resume gathering until it is safe to do so, and the risk of harm to our members is small. The Task Force met on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 and created this document and came forward with the following recommendations.

## **Task Force Recommendation**

St. John's COVID-19 Task Force unanimously agreed to the following: St. John's will be in the Red Phase for the unforeseeable future.

- The Red Phase is outlined on the back of this letter.
- Anyone planning to visit or enter the church should notify the church office. Anyone entering the building is required to wear a mask.

Until further guidance from the taskforce, we will keep the building closed and no in-person worship or activities will be conducted. We will use email, phone chain, postal mail, Facebook, and our Website to communicate our recommendations and distribute all information. You can connect with our website here ([www.stjohnsatown.com](http://www.stjohnsatown.com)) and on Facebook here <https://www.facebook.com/St.JohnsAbbottstown/>.

## **St. John's COVID-19 Task Force and leaders will do the following:**

- Meet regularly to determine when it is safe to return to in-person worship.
- Study the recommendations of national public health experts and local officials.
- Communicate regularly with St. John's members via email, postal mail, personal contact & phone chain, and our web page.
- Pray for God's guidance to meet the needs of our members as we love and serve one another.

## RED PHASE

### Online Worship Sundays at 10:00 AM- Starting: Sunday, June 7th

- Pastor and family only in the sanctuary
- Service available on FacebookLive, Zoom, and Youtube

### No Indoor Worship Services, including funerals, weddings, etc.

- Possible outdoor services following CDC guidelines
- All people must wear masks

### Zoom Bible Study/Prayer Meeting - Wednesday at 10 AM

- Open to all, participation via Zoom

### Outreach Ministries (Laundry Love, Food Pantry, etc.)

- Continue scheduled dates with limited hours and small number of volunteers
- Volunteers are required to wear masks and maintain 6-foot distance

### Church Operations

- Only Pastor and church secretary in the building
- Limited office hours - Mon - Thurs., 9 AM - 12 PM
- Church committees meet as needed via Zoom
- Building cleaning: Coverall cleaning will clean on a weekly basis, but only focus on the bathrooms and offices