

Greetings LCR,

We hope everyone is finding this new year as safe and warm as we can. We know that many people traveled over Christmas, saw family, exchanged gifts, hugs, meals, flights, worship, conversations and so much more. And as we all know this has brought us to a challenging time with COVID rates, Racine schools and others adjusting return to school schedules, extended hospital ER wait times, hospital beds being unavailable, and the list goes on.

Therefore, LCR's council met via zoom last night, January 6th, with the following issued recommendations below in mind. We discussed two options regarding worship in the coming weeks; 1st to heed the recommendations and go online only, 2nd to continue in person worship with only one pastor, with our mask mandate and strongly encouraging people who do not feel well to stay home and watch online.

After conversation back and forth, a motion was made to move to one online only service at 9:30am (livestreamed) for the next three weeks (January 9th, 16th, and 23rd). We will monitor the environment and discuss future dates at our January Council meeting (1/17/22). The motion passed unanimously.

Council knows that this has been a long haul with the COVID pandemic, we know the impact of isolation is real. Yet, we ask for your perseverance as we pause for this short time and gather online only for a few weeks hopefully, until the Omicron wave passes. This will protect vulnerable individuals, ease the burden on our healthcare systems, and avoid worsening the pandemic through our actions together as the Body of Christ.

Peace be with you,

Lutheran Church of the Resurrection
Church Council

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please contact Tony Baumgardt at (262) 770-7107 or Pastor Karen Pahl (262) 278-0316

Recommendations from this week:

"The Wisconsin Council of Churches strongly recommends that churches statewide temporarily return to remote operations as COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations soar due to the highly-transmissible Omicron variant in Wisconsin. While the WCC operates in an advisory capacity and does not have authority to require closures, the ecumenical group's recommendations are weighed heavily by many faith-based organizations. After consulting its medical advisers, the Council recommends that churches not gather in person for the next four to six weeks."

Bishop Paul Erickson from the Greater Milwaukee Synod shared as he learned of the Wisconsin Council of Churches note: "I realize that these are hard conversations to have and challenging decisions to make, as we are all weary and hoping for this pandemic to end. I am hopeful that this current wave will be short-lived, and I encourage all our leaders to make the best decisions they can to promote the health and well-being of all."