



American Lutheran Church of Sun City
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WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2020

MID-WEEK MESSAGE FROM PASTOR LOWELL

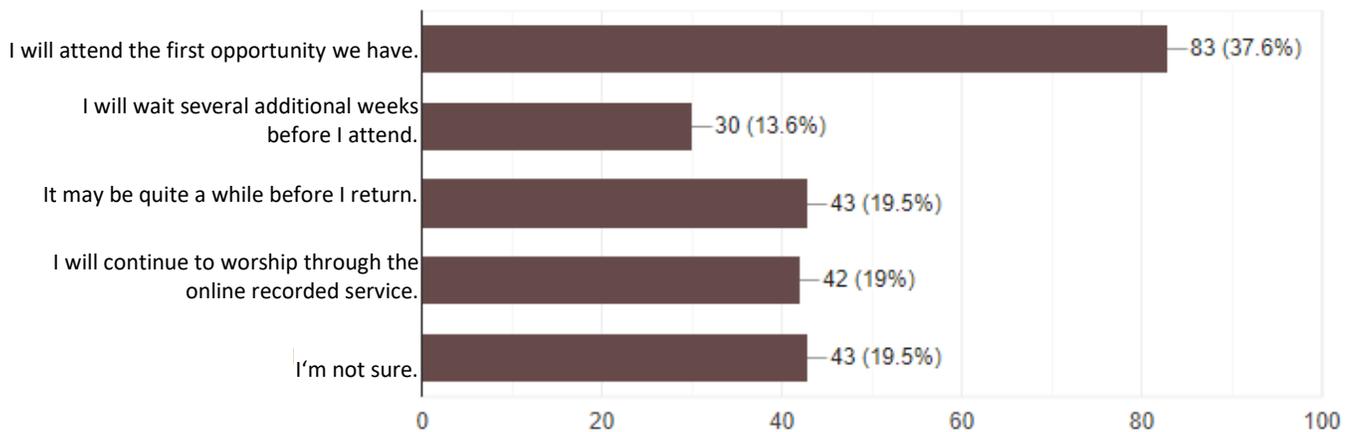
Dear Members and Friends of American Lutheran Church,

Ok, it’s getting hot in Sun City with 116° F forecasted for this coming Sunday! I recall last year’s summer high was 114° F which made me a bit cranky. I learned in the midst of my complaining that members recalled Phoenix’s high of 122° F back in the early 90’s. I cavalierly blurted, “If we get to 114, might as well go to 122.” Wrong! Members set me right that 122 is not good for anyone or anything, including flying airplanes. Ok, then — thank you, God, as it’s going to be only 116° F. Amen! 😊

On a much more positive note, I am thankful for the number of members who responded to the survey on reopening for worship from several weeks ago. Over 200 people participated in the survey through online and mailed responses. This is a good sign of congregational engagement on an important topic. Church Council President, Terri Polk, and I met with Oddey Hernandez, Communications Specialist, and Linda Shirck, Organist and wonderful colleague, to review the results on Monday. For this week, I’m going to concentrate on the first question regarding people’s plans for returning to worship:

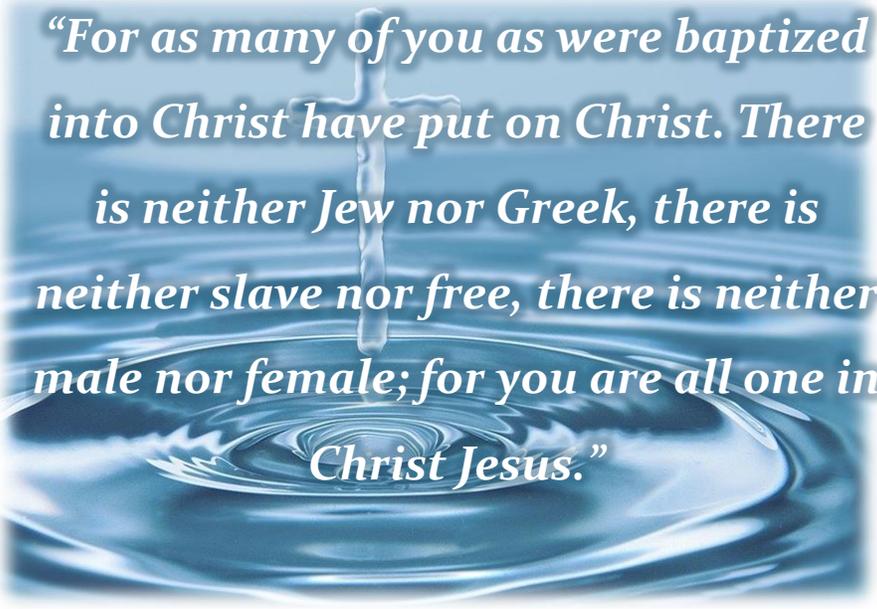
1. Which best describes your intention toward returning to a worship service at church?

221 responses



As you can see, a little more than 1/3 of our members plan on coming back right away. In comparison, the Arizona Republic recently did a survey and asked a similar question on plans to return to worship. In their survey, 22% of respondents planned on going back right away. It makes sense that our congregation with our love of worship would have more interest in returning. It also makes sense that over 60% of respondents are going to be cautious on returning to worship. Each one of us has an opinion, shaped by our interests, personality, life experiences, and concern for the health of ourselves and/or loved ones. In a world marked by division, can our congregation retain a sense of connection and mutual support even when we have different opinions on worship?

The answer is “yes”, by the grace of God! We don’t have the same opinions on politics, theology or even favorite college football teams. That’s because we know the most important point of agreement is the love of Jesus Christ. From [Galatians 3:27-28](#):



“For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

What were major divisions in Jesus’ time were far secondary to the unity found in the body of Christ. This Gospel truth continues to shape lives in pandemic times. We will continue our plan to reengage in gathered worship in our beautiful sanctuary. With COVID-19 cases continuing to rise in Maricopa County, we will retain our Synod’s policy to be respectfully cautious on reopening until cases stabilize and decline. Let us pray for unity arising from the Holy Spirit’s guidance and loving presence for our dear congregation. Use your gifts and concerns to guide your phone calls, letters, texts/emails and video conferencing with other members so all are assured of being a part of the body of Christ known as ALC.

Love, Pastor Lowell

MID-WEEK MESSAGE FROM TERRI POLK

I am hoping that everyone is staying safe and healthy. It is hot and muggy in Minnesota, and we have had some heavy downpours and thunderstorms lately. Our church in Lindstrom, MN, is going to have its first outdoor service this weekend (registration only). I will report next week on any lessons we might learn as well as summarize more on our ALC survey results. I sure miss our worship together as we continue to make plans for our reopening.

In prayer, Terri Polk

BIRTHDAY CALL-A-THON

I wanted to share with you that this Saturday, July 11th it is my mother, Beth Ann Schempp’s, 93rd birthday! I am trying to have a Birthday Call-A-Thon! I’m asking friends and relatives to call her on her birthday and/or mail her a note or card. I believe that the church and her faith have a great deal to do with her long life. She has enjoyed and been part of Wednesday Night Alive, blood pressure monitoring after services, ushering and the women’s quilting group!

Beth Ann Schempp
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Thank YOU!!!
Rick Schempp

