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August 20, 2021

Fellow Disciples,

The Transition Team, Council, & Staff met on August 17 to review recent COVID data, medical recommendations, and CDC/DHS updates. Once again, we are faced with a growing number of people who have contracted the virus, resulting in increased hospitalizations, both among adults and children. The Transition team met on Tuesday, specifically to discuss and make recommendations for the health and well-being of our congregation and its members.

During our discussion, we learned that using the most recent science, the CDC, and medical professionals strongly recommend that masks be worn again to best protect the vaccinated, those who are unable to be vaccinated (i.e., youth), and those who are at higher risk with a weakened immune system.

We understand there are varying opinions surrounding COVID and precautionary measures. That said, we are connected by our Lutheran faith to love one another by following Jesus. At St. John's that faithfulness and love is a strong bond.

Using recent data and guidelines set by national and state agencies, we strongly encourage and recommend that you wear a mask when gathering indoors, particularly in public gatherings such as worship. We believe that this is an effective way to protect one another.

We still honor individual choice and are not mandating wearing a mask; however, with that choice, we ask that you prayerfully consider the health and well-being of our children and those who are immuno-compromised in our St. John's community.

The Transition Team will meet again on August 31st and on a regular basis after that to assess the latest updates and recommendations. We will share our recommendations in the Weekly Happenings email and in the Announcement page at Sunday services.

Praying for peace and good health to all,



Brian Zach – President

On behalf of the Transition Team, Council, and Staff