

Church Opening for In Person Worship Services

When will we open?

No date has been set yet. Our hope and expectation is that we would be able to resume in person worship services in the fall of 2020. We have established a date for an outdoor service on September 13th at Waba Park with planned safety precautions in place.

What is taking so long?

We are attempting to meet all the guidelines for in person worship services established by our Eastern Canada Synod and the local health authorities. Church Council has established a task force to review the guidelines and implications for our congregation and provide us with recommendations on the best way to move forward. While the task force has accomplished a great deal under the leadership of its chair, Lorne Rueckwald, and members, Andy Kalnins and Aman Segu, there is still work to be completed prior to safe resumption of in person worship services. Issues such as taking the temperature of members and checking health status prior to their entrance to their seats, data collection and retention, proper signage and distance markers, are some of the items that still need to be resolved. Council and the task force are doing their best to ensure we balance the desire to open again for in person worship, with ensuring the safety of those who are most vulnerable and at risk for severe consequences from contracting Covid-19. When a final plan for reopening our church for in person worship has been established, we will be submitting it to both our synod and local health authorities for comment and approval prior to opening. We will then be in a position to advise congregation members of our planned opening date.

Why are other churches already open or opening earlier than we are?

We believe that each congregation (and denomination) is doing its best to follow the guidelines that have been put in place by health and church authorities. There are variations in the approach and timing depending on a number of items including:

- congregation location
- community Covid-19 outbreak rates
- resources available
- congregation size
- congregation demographics (age structure)
- risk assessment

We are committed to opening our in person worship services at the earliest opportunity given our ability to meet the requirements of both the health authorities and the guidelines established by our synod leadership. We thank you for your continued support and should you have any questions regarding the resumption of in person worship services, please contact a member of church council.

Your church council and Pastor Norine