

An Update from the GDC Council and Pastor Karyn
June 4, 2020

Greetings Gloria Dei Church,

During this time it is important for us to remember who we are and whose we are. God is in the midst of us and strengthening us during some very difficult times. Our community of faith has been worshipping and gathering for the past 3 months online and we've been continuing to study, share, learn, and grow in our faith as we do these holy things collectively. We know that many of us are ready to be back worshipping in person so we wanted to let you know about the process of determining a reopening date. Some will not be quite ready to come back so we want to continue to offer online options, as well.

Both Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and Bishop Patricia Davenport (the Presiding Bishop for all of the ELCA and our own synod bishop respectively) are encouraging churches to make careful and intentional plans with the upmost care and caution for reopening and to not do things too quickly.

Bishop Davenport's letter to the Synod can be found [here](#).

A group of Council persons, Pastor Karyn, and some members of staff are reviewing procedures and preparation guidelines to make returning to in-person gatherings possible with the care and safety of our members top in our minds. Therefore we do not have a set date as of yet to reopen. We will be following the guidelines of the Center for Disease Control for faith communities, health officials' advice in the state of Pennsylvania, and denominational suggestions as we move forward. We will let you know that timeline when it is finalized.

We are so appreciative of the love and support you have shown to each other and to our church by your prayers, your connections, and your gifts. Please pray with us as we navigate the coming weeks and months.

Grace and Peace –

The Gloria Dei Congregational Council
Pastor Karyn