



May 18, 2021

To the Body of Christ at Saint Andrew Lutheran Church,

On Monday, the task force had an initial conversation about the recent changes to the CDC Guidelines. These relaxed guidelines **apply only to fully vaccinated individuals**. (35% for Marathon Co.) The majority of Marathon County residents do not meet this criterion. The guideline revisions represent a path to a more traditional worship, however they emphasize the importance of getting vaccinated to protect yourself, your neighbors and your fellow church members.

The task force has made recommendations that will be considered at the next meeting of the council. These recommendations are made after considering the following from the Wisconsin Council of Churches:

“...the Wisconsin Council of Churches recommends that congregations continue to exercise appropriate caution and provide thoughtful leadership in how they gather. There are meaningful changes we can make to our COVID-safe practices but faith-based gatherings, particularly worship, are unique enough occasions that they are unlike a general indoor setting covered by most CDC guidance.

We are not required to do something just because it is allowed. The apostle Paul advises Christians that “knowledge puffs up, but love builds up” and that they should “take care that your liberty does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.” (1 Cor. 8:1, 9). The minimum standard is not necessarily the guide by which the church should operate.

We understand many church gatherings to be somewhat like public transit, where people of mixed vaccine status are together for some time with limited ventilation. The CDC recommendations which suggest there is low risk to gathering indoors

without masks, and do not raise alarm about singing, presume a fully vaccinated group. That is not the case in most faith communities – and we would not want to put church leaders in the position of enforcement, needing to check vaccination status in order to admit people to worship. Indeed, this practice can be exclusionary and counter to Christian witness.

Many members of our communities remain unvaccinated and at higher risk of COVID transmission. Some, particularly children under the age of 12 and medically fragile individuals such as pregnant women or the immunocompromised, have not had the opportunity to be vaccinated. Such members deserve the highest care and protection of the community, and all deserve to see the example of faithful people expressing the love of Christ in following sensible precautions. In our excitement at good news for the vaccinated, let us not commit the sin of overlooking parts of the body. Hastily-implemented practices can exclude “the least of these” and threaten their health. The vulnerable among us should not be expected to bear the burden of others’ unwillingness to be vaccinated or follow COVID-safe policies.”

You can find the link to this article [here](#).

The safest form of “gathered” worship is outdoors, with masks and social distancing. Saint Andrew is trying to reflect this by providing members the option to gather at an outdoor worship service at 10:30 a.m. For those who prefer, an even safer alternative is online worship at 9:00 a.m.

As vaccine protection improves and Covid cases continue to decline, more pathways to gathering become available. The Church Council will continue to balance the multitude of factors that impact the method and the speed of our return to full indoor worship. The Plan to Gather Task Force asks for your patience as we continue to assist in this process.

The Plan to Gather Task Force



Celebrate the Class of 2021!

Saint Andrew is excited to celebrate the graduating class of 2021! Please click [here](#) to view the video recognizing each of these graduates. May God bless you and guide you on the journey ahead.

Crane Pick-Up

The Lenten Crane Project called the congregation to make beautiful things out of ordinary paper. Each crane holds the peace, hope, and prayers that were lovingly folded into them. Please visit the Fellowship Hall following worship to take them home, individual cranes or crane garlands, with you or give to someone you think may need them. We are releasing the cranes into the "air" to be reminded that what we practice in the smallest level flows into the wider world and transforms it.



9th Grade Confirmation Rehearsal and Pictures

Wednesday, May 19 at 6:00 pm

Students and Mentors are asked to meet outside at the east parking lot for practice. We will then be taking photos, individual portraits, and a group photo in the sanctuary. Please bring a mask to wear while waiting inside for pictures. In the event of rain, we will meet in the Fellowship Hall.



Holy Communion and the Rite of Confirmation

Sunday, May 23 at 10:30 am

Saint Andrew will be celebrating Confirmation at the **10:30 am outdoor service on May 23**. This service will include the affirmation of baptism for our thirty confirmands. Because we are expecting more members and guests in attendance, this service will be held in the east parking lot.



SALC Treasure Sale and Maker's Market

Thursday-Friday, June 3-4

8:30 am-5:30 pm

*Sunday, June 6 Following
Worship*

Bring in your gently used donations for the Treasure Sale then come back and shop for new treasures! **New this year: a**

Maker's Market. Come and see and buy various works of art from local artists. A free-will donation will be received for most treasure sale items. Artists' items will be priced separately. Donated treasures should be in good working order and in very good condition. The following items will not be accepted: computers, printers, televisions, phones, batteries, chargers, light bulbs, microwaves, carpets/rugs, paint/chemicals, large appliances, or exercise equipment. **Volunteers are needed** to work shifts during the two sale days, please call the office to volunteer (715 842-3333).

Weed Pullers Needed!

It is that time of year again when everything is greening up and in beautiful bloom, which also means weeds. We are looking for volunteers that are willing and able to get a little dirty and help maintain the landscaped areas around Saint Andrew. If you are willing to "adopt" an area to maintain for the 2021 season, please click this link, find an area in the list that you would like to "adopt", and sign up. Buckets/bags for weeds and debris are provided by Saint Andrew, but please bring gloves, a kneeler, and preferred weeding tools. There is no set schedule for when the work needs to be done, however, you will likely need access to the building. Please be aware of the summer office hours which are **Monday-Thursday, 8:30 am-4:30 pm** (closed Fridays) which begins **Tuesday, June 1**, or make arrangements with Patrick (patrick@SALC-Wausau.org).

SALC Summer Programs- Save the Date

July 11-16- Confirmation Camp at Waypost (7th and 8th grade)

Confirmation camp is a unique experience for entire confirmation groups to be immersed in an intentional Christian community together and have faith-filled conversations with their Cabin Leader and others.

August 10-12- Vacation Bible School- Compassion Camp

Compassion Camp is a program where kids, families, and church communities explore what it means to have compassion for ourselves, others, and the world. VBS will be a 3-day program hosted at Saint Andrew.

August 10-12 -Day Camp at Waypost (3rd-6th grade)

A group of friendly and adventurous third through sixth graders are gearing up to spend three days at Waypost Camp in Hatley and we want more friends to join us! Crossways Cabin Leaders will be ready to guide us through the obstacle course, lead us on hikes, take us swimming, teach us about God's love, and much more!

Click [here](#) to register for Day Camp. Registration information for VBS and Confirmation Camp will be coming soon.

Videos Available on YouTube

Did you miss worship live? Was there something in particular that you'd like to listen to again? A children's sermon that tickled your ear? Facebook not your thing? Church is uploading these video resources to our YouTube channel. Check out [this link](#) or search for Saint Andrew and hit "subscribe" to see and share the latest content.

Plan to Gather

Weekly

Update: 5/18/2021

On April 15, the council met to consider the timing for indoor/in-person worship but due to the rising case numbers of Covid-19 for Marathon County and the regression back to Phase One, for now the Plan to Gather includes in person **outdoor worship only**. What did change was the waiting period for phase transition from three weeks to the burden number itself. Stay tuned for more information coming soon from the church council and visit www.salc-wausau.org/covid to review an updated *Plan to Gather*.

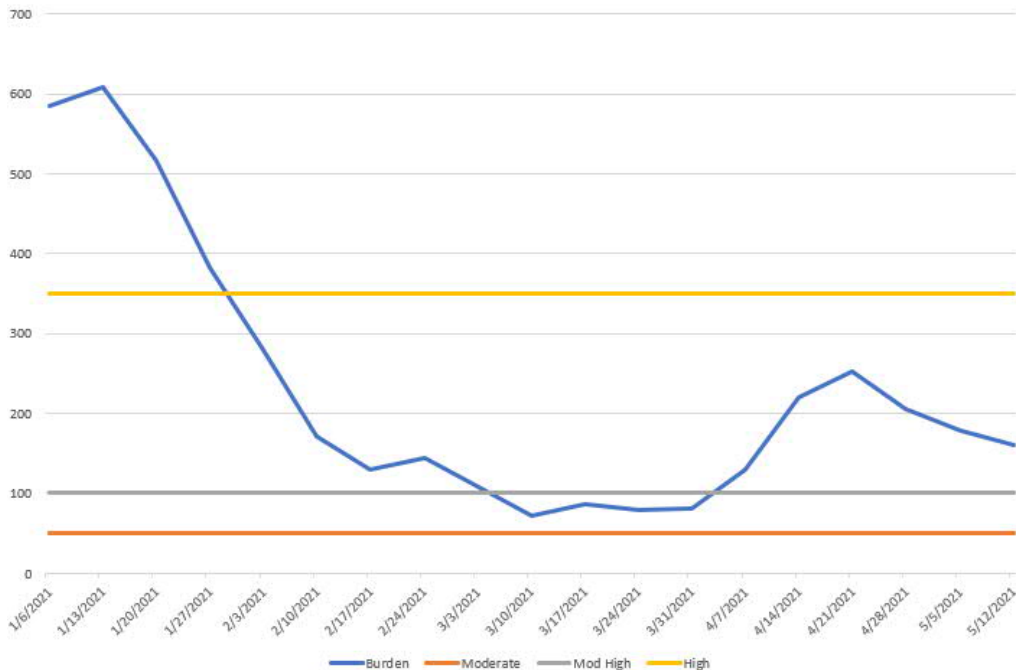
SALC COVID-19 UPDATE

As of 5/12/2021

Date	Burden #	Trajectory	Burden Status
4/21	251.6	No Change	High
4/28	206.3	No Change	High
5/5	178.9	No Change	High
5/12	159.6	No Change	High

Current SALC Status: Phase One

2021 Case Rate Per 100,000 Marathon County Residents
AKA Burden



About

Worship

Learning

Calendar

Contact Us

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