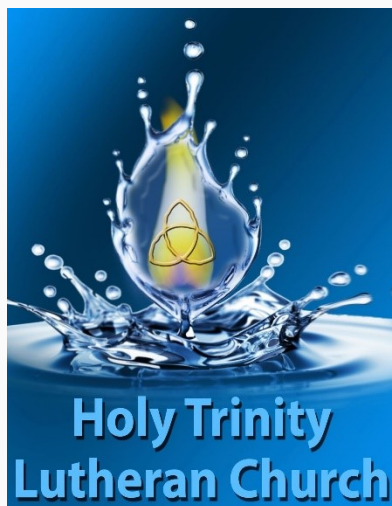


## Special Email EStar



**Our Sisters and Brothers in Christ,**

**Yesterday the CDC updated their mask guidelines. The following is what is listed on their website:**

**UPDATES AS OF MAY 13, 2021**

**"Update that fully vaccinated people no longer need to wear a mask or physically distance in any setting, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance"**

**With the agreement of our church council, we have been using the CDC to guide us through this pandemic since last spring. So with their new guideline, we reviewed our current policy and asked ourselves "How will we proceed with this new update?"**

**Our church family has supported the mask rule with very little push back. And for that, we are extremely grateful! It really showed how badly folks wanted to worship in the sanctuary once again! However,**

**since vaccinations began, there have been increasing questions about the ongoing need for masks. We know how sensitive this issue is for each and every person. If we continue to require masks, we will begin to lose people and possibly get some nasty push back. If we lift the mask requirement (following the CDC guidelines), we will also lose people and possibly get some nasty push back. So....here we stand. After prayerful consideration, the church council voted earlier today (Friday) to remove the mandatory mask mandate. In keeping with the CDC recommendations, we are also highly recommending that people wear masks if they feel at all uncomfortable.**

**In Christ's service with you and on behalf of your church council,**

**Pastors Andrea and Ken**

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