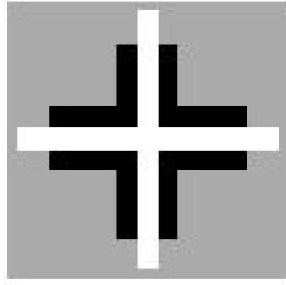


DEUTSCHER
GOTTESDIENST



GERMAN
CHURCH SERVICE

First Sunday of every month (except July and August) at 2:00 PM at
CENTRAL ST. MATTHEW UCC 1333 S. CARROLLTON AVENUE NEW ORLEANS, LA 70118

NEWS FROM THE GERMAN CHURCH SERVICE

Liebe Freunde des Deutschen Gottesdienstes!

Though the Greater New Orleans metropolitan area has begun a phased plan to loosen restrictions on gatherings and commerce, the German Church Service will refrain from meeting until September. This has been a hard decision, but I believe it is for the best. Today, it may appear that the crest of the illness's initial wave has broken, however, New Orleans remains a hotspot of contagion particularly among those in elevated risk categories. The local prevalence of the virus combined with the lack of a vaccine or therapeutic treatment create an unacceptable level of hazard for our congregation. Many of us have passed our sixty-fifth birthday; many of us suffer cardiac, pulmonary and respiratory comorbidities that would make contracting COVID-19 especially harrowing.

It is observably true that some churches have taken these risks in stride in order to be with one another. My own parish, St. George's, (like every other Episcopal Church in this diocese) has decided against such an action. We will not be opening until 5 July at the earliest. Similarly, Central St. Matthew's U.C.C. remains shuttered until their pastor and parish council determine that the risk of spreading COVID has sufficiently abated. Even if there were strong desire for our church to be first out of the gate and back in the pews, it seems that we would have no place to go!

Though we must remain apart from each other for now, I hope that you will continue to support our congregation through the ministry of prayer, which I believe we all need now, more than ever. Should your circumstances permit, I hope you will also consider keeping up your offering to our general fund.

There are a variety of resources for online worship and education offered freely by the EKD. You can take advantage of these opportunities by pointing your web browser to the following address: <https://www.ekd.de/kirche-von-zu-hause-53952.htm>

God bless you in these times. Be well, be brave, and be of good cheer: we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us (Phil 4,13). I pray to see you all again 6 September for services.

Ihr,
Pastor Richard Easterling +

Mailing address and phone number

1301 METAIRIE ROAD METAIRIE, LA 70005 (504) 840-9900
Email: gcsnola1@att.net Website: www.thegermanchurchservice.org