

October 19, 2020

Brothers and Sisters –

I'm writing to let you know that the Reopening Task Force has made the decision to return to in-person worship in the sanctuary, starting Sunday October 25th (Reformation Sunday). Each week, though we will still hold and stream both services, only one will have people present. On the 25th, we will allow in-person worship at the traditional service, then on November 1st it will be the contemporary service – and we will alternate going forward.

Returning to worship comes with changed expectations while we continue to deal with the coronavirus. To be present for worship, we have set the following expectations/limitations:

- **If you plan to attend, you will need to pre-register**, as we will limit the maximum number of household units that will be allowed in the sanctuary to 26. Call Diane at the church (692-6251) by noon on Friday to register everyone in your family who will attend (for contact tracing if needed). An usher will check names at the back of the church before being allowed to enter. If there is room available, we will accept those who come without pre-registering.
- **Singing will be discouraged, and liturgical response will be limited.** You are invited to mouth along with the words of songs and liturgy, as led by our pastors and song leaders.
- **Masks will be required.** It has been shown that masks are the most effective tool we currently have against spread of the virus – designed to protect those around you, even more than self. Masks will be worn at all times over mouth and nose. Children under the age of 5 will not be required to wear a mask.
- **Offering will be received as you leave the worship service.** We will not be passing the offering plate to avoid the passing of germs.
- **Holy Communion will not be offered in the short term.** We will look for ways to share communion safely, and will do so when possible.
- **We will not pass the peace, and request you remain in your pew to avoid concerns over transmission.**
- **Ushers will guide people to available pews before the service, and will dismiss congregants by pew at the end of the service.** Please wait until you are dismissed before leaving the worship space.

Lastly, it's important to understand that we will continue to take this moment in time seriously. As such, should worshipers not abide by the above precautions, we may have to return to worship online and by radio only. We look forward to seeing you again, and pray our intentional precautions will keep all safe.

In God's hope and promise,

The First Lutheran Reopening Task Force

Mary Minton, Venita Winterboer, Jill Ayres, Ken Knudtson, David Meyer, Pastor Dave