

August 29, 2020

Dear Congregation,

We look forward to meeting in person once again for our worship service on September 6. To do this, we feel compelled to abide by guidelines, to provide the best safety for our congregation and guests, as well as limit clean-up as we leave the building.

Entry to the building will be limited to one location, the rear entrance. A “greeter” will open the entry door for guests, so that contact with handles is limited. All who enter are expected to wear a mask. We expect you to stay on paths that connect the rear doors to the restroom and worship area. To facilitate clean hands upon entry, rather than using hand sanitizer, the restroom doors will be propped open to allow access for all to wash hands. Lights go on automatically, so contact is limited to fixtures and surfaces in the bathroom. As you enter the worship area, the doors will be propped open. We request that you sit as a family unit, in alternate rows.

After the service, assistance will be needed to wipe down the areas that have been used by our congregation. This includes pews backs (in front of where people sit), door handles, and restroom surfaces. If you are interested in assisting, please let one of us know you are willing to help. We will leave the building as we entered: the back door. The last person out will be responsible to wipe down the back entry door handles. Specific cleaning detailed instructions will be provided prior to our first in-person gathering.

Until further notice, there will be no childcare provided in the building. We are hopeful that children can remain on the recommended path and in the church pew with parents during the Worship service. At some point, coordinated efforts between parents of children with church members may be encouraged, so that during good weather, the children could be involved in outdoor activities, for the period after worship and before Discipleship class. There is to be no use of LCM children’s equipment, inside or outside the building.

We are hopeful that these guidelines are not too constrictive, so that you feel welcome to worship God as a church body. If these guidelines don’t meet with your comfort level, then please feel free to express your concerns to the one of us; we are trying to address safety issues in the most accommodating way and perhaps there may be ways to solve challenges. We trust that we can get procedures in place that will allow everyone to feel safe in coming.

Please pray for us and churches around the world as we try to deal with the barriers that keep us apart.

Your Servants,
John Leafgren
Martin Rossol

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:23-25)