**Public Service Restart**

We are excited to once again offer in-person worship at Redeemer. Over 100 members took the congregational survey about reopening worship, and those thoughts were considered when establishing the precautions that we’ll use when we first begin to worship together again. These measures are our starting point, intended to mitigate – not eliminate – the risks associated with the coronavirus.

**General Information**

Public services will resume on May 31.

Our service times for the immediate future will be on Sundays at 8:00, 9:15, and 10:30 AM.  There will be no Monday service initially.

More services will be added if needed.

The 8:00 service will have higher precautions, including mandatory mask-wearing and no singing in this service.

The 9:15 and 10:30 AM services will include limited singing.  You are welcome to wear a mask, but they are not required.

**Encouragements**

Those who have any of the symptoms of COVID-19 (cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, loss of taste or smell) should worship from home.

Those who are at high risk of serious illness are encouraged to worship from home.

Those who are uncomfortable attending services at this time are encouraged to worship from home.

Those who are uncomfortable with these initial modifications, or with other worshipers having the freedom to either wear or not wear a mask, should stay home.

Everyone should practice distancing and good hygiene.

**Distancing**

For our initial services, there will be two empty pews between occupied pews.

One household will be allowed per pew.  Exceptions are allowed when six feet of distance can be maintained.  For example, one couple sits at the end of a pew, and an individual sits at the other end.

Households are required to register online to ensure that the appropriate number of people are in attendance for each service.  Those without online access can call the office (Mon-Thu 8 AM to noon are office hours).

Following these guidelines, 50 people will be permitted to attend each or our initial services.   This is 20% of our capacity.

Please do not gather in the Gathering Area or hallways of the school.

Please refrain from the shaking of hands.

We will ensure proper distancing and cleanliness to the best of our ability.

An usher or elder will be present to guide people in these new procedures.

**Cleanliness**

Hand sanitizer will be available at the doors.

High contact surfaces (like pews and door handles) will be disinfected before and after services.

A deeper cleaning will be done after each weekend.

Hymnals will be removed from the pews.

The entire service, included hymns, will be included in the service folders.  Service folders will be placed in the pews before the beginning of the service.  They will be discarded after one use, and not reused.

Offering plates will be placed near the entrance to the pews.  They will be brought to the altar during the offertory by an usher.  The locked box will always be available in the Gathering Area for offerings.

The elements for Holy Communion will be prepared by the pastor. This will reduce the number of people in the building and the number of people touching the elements.

The sanctuary windows will be open during the services to increase natural airflow.  That will mean outside noise and a greater variety of temperatures for worship.  Please dress accordingly.

**Communion**

We will have communion in our first service back, May 31.  Then we will continue with the 1st and 3rd Sundays for communion as usual.

Those who do not feel comfortable communing at this time are certainly free not to do so.  Private communion is available by appointment with pastor.

Pastor will be the only person distributing the sacrament.  He will clean his hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer immediately before distribution, and between each table.

Those sitting in one pew (households, or perhaps two separate individuals) will be directed to approach the chancel one at a time to receive the Sacrament.

Individual cups will be spaced out in the trays.  The trays will be placed at the front of the outside aisle on each side.  Communicants will take their own cup.

The common cup will not be used for a time.

Communicants will receive the wafer in an open palm.

We will not use the communion rail.  Communicants will stand in front of the tile in front of the first pew.

Hand sanitizer will be available after communion.

**After the Service**

Pastors will not shake hands with people as they exit the sanctuary.

Worshipers will be excused from the back pews first, opposite of our normal practice.

Please do not gather in the Gathering Area or the School Hallways. This is something that can be done more safely outside, if desired.

**Other Notes**

The 10:30 Service on June 7th has already been reserved for the families of our youth confirmands.

An online pre-recorded service will be available on May 31.

As soon as our livestream system is ready, livestreaming will replace pre-recorded services.