

In-person Worship Updates and Guidelines

October 10, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I want to share with you the following updates and guidelines regarding our worship life together:

St. Michael's Worship and Music Committee and Church Council have been working together to evaluate and plan the return to indoor worship as the seasons change and the weather gets colder. Being mindful of the guidelines we have received from the CDC, state and local governments, as well as synod and churchwide leadership, and along with the majority of survey responses indicating a desire to return to indoor worship, it was decided that **we will be moving back in doors on Reformation Sunday, October 25 at 10:00 a.m. Here are some specifics of what to expect regarding our indoor services:**

- Face coverings and six-foot physical distancing are required at all worship services.
- Entry to the building will be through the main entrance. Exit will be through the side entrance.
- To record attendance and for possible contact tracing purposes, you will be required to sign in upon entry.
- To safeguard your health and the health of our worship leaders and to ensure the cleanest air possible, Guardian Angel air purifiers with HEPA filters and UV lighting have been purchased and will be set up in the nave and chancel areas.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be on-site. Please apply hand sanitizer upon entry.
- To maintain appropriate physical distancing, every other pew will be open for seating. Members of the same household may sit together in the same pew.
- Hymnals will not be needed and will be removed.
- We will refrain from hugging or handshaking. The Sharing of the Peace will be done by wave.
- The service will be a service of Holy Communion, and the Assisting Minister and I will commune worshipers where you are seated. As with our outdoor services, please bring a small cup to receive the communion wine.
- Per CDC, ELCA and synod guidelines, to minimize the risk of spreading droplets and aerosols there will be no choir or congregational singing. Alla will provide the music with one vocal leader singing the hymns for us to listen to and/or hum along to.
- Bulletins will still be sent electronically for viewing on phones, and paper copies will be available on a table or stand for you to pick up as you arrive.
- An offering plate will be on a table/stand for you to give your gift as you arrive.
- Face coverings and small cups will be available in case you forgot to bring yours.
- Our building will be thoroughly cleaned on Monday afternoons.

- I will continue to record and post our remote services each week for those who are unable to attend our indoor services.
- Persons shall not attend if you are feeling unwell, have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days, have recently been in contact with someone with symptoms or has tested positive, or have recently returned from travel to a high risk state.

I understand that this is a bit of a change from worship as we knew it pre-COVID-19, and I thank you in advance for your patience and understanding during this next transitional phase of our worship life together. I look forward with hope to resuming in door in-person worship with you, and with joy to continue worshiping with you on-line. Be safe, healthy, and well.

God's peace,

Pastor Derrick Fallon