

To: St. Paul Council
From: Re-entry Task Force
Re: Worship Plan
Date: August 20, 2020

We continue to see increased positive COVID-19 cases in Madison County, with our total as of August 19th of positive cases reaching 145. Therefore, we need to continue our vigilance to ensure our congregational members' safety, but we also see a great opportunity with Pastor Ittu joining us in September to return to in-person worship. The following outlines our recommendation for fall worship.

Sept 6-20 - 3 weeks. Two outside worship services as weather permits. While both could be Sunday morning, given the unpredictability of the weather, we recommend one Saturday evening at and one later Sunday morning. For those that aren't comfortable or can't attend, Pastor will record a message for online viewing. Please note we don't intend this to be a full service. If weather does not permit the outside services, only worship leaders (pastor, musician, lector) will record and/or livestream the service from the sanctuary.

Note: Pastor will also be planning for Sunday School and confirmation during his first three weeks. This time will also let us know how "back to school" is going and if we're seeing accelerated spikes in positive cases.

For future worship, the re-entry task force and Pastor Ittu recommend that St. Paul use the criteria set by the Governor and the Iowa Department of Health for our schools. The criteria are taken from the Winterset School Return to Learn Plan (p. 26-27). All services (especially critical for indoor) will follow designated COVID restriction/guidance, including social distancing and wearing masks.

We utilized historical attendance rates to determine the number of services we need to have to ensure social distancing. In September, over the last three years, our average attendance ranged from 81 to 121. October ranged from 92 – 125, and the low number of the range is after Pastor Joel departed. Given our current building structure, we can fit 40-50 individuals with social distance guidelines in place.

Beginning September 27, implement the following criteria:

- School at Stage 1 "None to minimal" 0-5% positivity rate = One service Saturday evening and two Sunday morning worship services (8:00 and 10:30). One service will be recorded/livestreamed.
- School at Stage 2 "Minimal to Moderate" 6-14% positivity in the county = One service Saturday evening and two in-person worship services Sunday morning (8:00 and 10:30). One service will be recorded/livestreamed.
- School at Stage 3 "Substantial Controlled" (15-20% positivity and 10% absenteeism) = Virtual worship recorded/livestreamed; only worship leader participants attend.
- School at Stage 4 "Substantial Uncontrolled" (>20%) = Virtual worship prerecorded with no in-person participation from worship helpers.

Currently we would be in Stage 2, with approximately an 8% positivity rate, but we do anticipate this to rise with the increased interaction with school and accompanying activities. It is important to mention that until we have a vaccine readily available, we plan on continuing safety protocols, which will include social distancing, wearing masks and adhering to a strict cleaning regiment. We will be talking through opening other parts of the building in the coming weeks.

To: St. Paul Council
From: Re-entry Task Force
Re: Worship Plan September 27 – October
Date: September 17, 2020

We are blessed to see a declining positivity rate for Madison County (data from coronavirus.iowa.gov) We had a high on August 13 of 40 individuals positive in a 14-day rolling total; 9/18 the rolling total was 18; today 9/17 the 14-day rolling total is 21. When looking at the school district data, on 9/14, the 14-day average positivity rate was 4.7%; on 9/15 it was 4.3%; it rose to 5% on 9/17. Overall, Madison County's data is good, but we can also see that the data changes day by day. To ensure our congregational members' health safety, we will continue to monitor the data and follow CDC and ELCA Synod guidelines, as well as the recommendations of our local public health department. .

The following outlines our recommendation for the next several weeks:

Beginning September 27, in-person worship may be held on Sunday mornings at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. We have done a re-count of physical distancing and believe we can safely seat up to 60 people at a service. We will evaluate attendance each week to determine if we need to add a third service; scheduling of a third service will be determined by the Pastor and the Council.

Safety Protocols: In-person worship should include the safety protocols previously put in place:

Please wear masks

6' distancing upon entry

Drop off offering upon entering and pick up communion bags

Greet others with a wave, a nod, a bow, a fist or elbow bump

6' between family groups in pews

Tables provided for families with small children

Parishioners are encouraged to use the restroom before coming to church; restrooms are available for emergencies.

We will not be having indoor fellowship, shared coffee, or snacks.

Upon exiting, move away from the front entrance for any socially-distanced fellowship.

16' between congregants and worship leaders will be maintained; face shields or masks will be worn by worship leaders and musicians.

Disinfecting/cleaning will occur between services (9:15-9:45).

Worship Plans

Communion will be observed at both services.

Limited congregational speaking and no singing

Pastor will determine lay readers.

Pastor will collaborate with musicians regarding music offerings.

Re-instating whole group choir can be revisited at the October Council meeting.

Live streaming & recordings are in progress, to be available in October

Re-entry Task Force Responsibilities

Identify and provide training for cleaning crew

Maintain physical distancing of pews and tables in the worship area

Identify and train ushers/guides through October



To: Prospective Fellowship Hall Users

The Congregation Council understands how difficult it may be for your group to have a large room where you can socially distance to keep each other healthy and safe during your gathering. We have a Re-entry Task Force who have established guidelines for the use of our fellowship hall. The kitchen and classrooms are not available. If you want to use the hall, we ask that you have a sponsor from the Re-entry Task Force or a representative appointed by them. This person will assist you in understanding the guidelines for appropriately using the space and protecting your participants.

The following health and safety protocols will be implemented:

- We request that you wear a mask at all times when on the church property.
- Before moving any table or chairs in the room, please note their placement so you can return them as you found them.
- When entering and exiting the church, please maintain six feet social distancing.
- Sit or stand six feet apart in the meeting room.
- Greet others with a wave, a nod, a bow, a fist or elbow bump.
- You may consume non-alcoholic beverages that you have brought individually. Food and other beverages may not be served or shared.
- We encourage participants to use the rest room before attending their meeting. If the bathroom must be used, signs have been posted about proper use, including sanitizing protocols.
- When the meeting is over, return the tables and chairs where they were originally set.
- Before leaving, wipe down all surfaces - tables, chairs, and other touched surfaces - with disinfecting wipes or soap and water.
- If you have accumulated a large amount of trash, we ask that you take it out to our large receptacles at the back door.
- Turn off all lights; close the fellowship hall doors and make sure they are locked.