



RE-OPENING GUIDELINES IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

After prayerful consideration, hours of discussion and careful research, the Re-Opening Task Force and Church Council of Reformation Lutheran Church present these guidelines to resume in-person worship. Using CDC Guidelines for Communities of Faith, the Grand Canyon Synod recommendations for in-person worship, and the examples set by our sister communities of faith, our hope is that these guidelines will serve to keep all who enter our doors safe from contracting coronavirus. There is no failsafe; we are all at risk. These guidelines are meant to minimize any risk.

Health and Safety

The health and safety of our congregation, staff and guests is our number one priority.

- ◆ If you do not feel well, please stay home. You may still participate in worship on Facebook Live.
- ◆ If you have had close contact with a person with COVID-19, please stay home. You may still participate in worship on Facebook Live.
- ◆ If you do not feel comfortable gathering in person, that is OK. You may still participate in worship on Facebook Live.
- ◆ For those participating in worship at the church, all staff, congregants and guests are strongly encouraged to wear a mask while inside any of the buildings/rooms at RLC. If you do not have your own mask, you may request a disposable mask. Cloth face coverings are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have symptoms.
 - Note: Cloth face coverings should not be placed on children younger than 2 years old, anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, and anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance.
- ◆ We strongly encourage staff, congregants and guests to maintain good hand hygiene, washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. (Reciting the Lord's Prayer is just the right amount of time.)
- ◆ Hand sanitizer is available in the event anyone is unable to wash their hands.
- ◆ Occupied spaces will be cleaned and disinfected prior to and after each use.

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What will Worship look like?

Patience from all involved will be needed as we adapt to changing conditions. Prayer is requested for a successful transition.

- ◆ Before entering for worship, everyone will be asked to provide their name and contact phone number to assist with contact tracing in the event of an outbreak. This information will not be used for any other purpose and maintained only by Church Staff until it is no longer needed.
- ◆ A greeter will greet you with a wave, smile and nod outside of Edwins Hall, in the courtyard near the French Doors, which are designated entrance doors. The greeter will be equipped with hand sanitizer and disposable masks (if needed). The greeter will open the door for you to minimize the number of people touching the doors.
- ◆ Please maintain physical distancing of 6 ft. with anyone outside of your immediate party.
- ◆ Please take your seats immediately and do not loiter around entrance/exit doors. Please do not move or adjust any signage or chairs; they are placed where they need to be with your safety in mind.
- ◆ A maximum of 50 people will be allowed. You may only sit with those whom you typically reside. We do not want to risk cross-contamination.
- ◆ Bulletins will be placed in the chairs ahead of your arrival to avoid physical contact. Please take the bulletin home with you or place in the recycle bin.
- ◆ Group singing of hymns, unfortunately, is one of the riskiest behaviors due to the spread of aerosol droplets that can carry the virus. Therefore, we will not sing aloud. Worship leaders will sing from the chancel or show a video of a hymn, and the words will be available in the bulletin for you to “sing in your head” or hum to yourself inside your mask.
- ◆ Likewise, we will not have responsive prayer and liturgy. Worship leaders will recite the prayers and liturgy from the chancel, and the words will be available in the bulletin for you to follow along silently.
- ◆ Sharing of the peace will have a new look. While staying in your seat, simply nod or acknowledge people around you with a wave or peace sign. Please avoid physical contact with others.
- ◆ Offering plates will not be passed during worship. In order to mitigate risk, a drop-box will be available; on-line giving and mail-in checks are encouraged.
- ◆ The celebration of Holy Communion will look different. Pre-packaged wine and wafers will be used. Communicants will be ushered to the table where they may pick up a communion package and/or receive a blessing. Once all have returned to their seats, the Pastor will continue with the Order of Holy Communion and all will partake together from their seats.

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- ◆ To avoid congestion at the end of worship, the ushers will dismiss certain sections at a time. Please wait for them to usher you out to avoid congregating in the exit doorway. The door to the west of the stage will be a designated exit door. The French doors on the east side of the room are for entrance only.
- ◆ Please discard unwanted bulletins and disposable masks in marked trash bins.
- ◆ Please do not loiter inside after worship. Exit the building immediately afterward and enjoy your socializing outside or at a restaurant or home location.

Additional Information

- ◆ Online worship will continue on Facebook Live at 9:00am Sundays.
- ◆ In-person worship will be offered at our normal worship times on Sundays: 9:00am and 11:30am in Edwins Hall. We will return to worship in the Sanctuary at an unknown date in the future.
- ◆ Sunday School and Youth Group are off for the summer. We will revisit in-person gatherings in the fall. Adult Bible Study will continue on Facebook Live and Zoom for the foreseeable future. We will revisit in-person gatherings in the fall.
- ◆ Restrooms will be limited to one person at a time (except for children needing parental assistance or anyone needing physical assistance). Restrooms will be open 10 minutes before the start of service and closed for cleaning 10 minutes after the service.
- ◆ To avoid unnecessary additional cleaning, please do not access other parts of the church such as Barnes Hall, the sanctuary, kitchens, classrooms, youth room, Adele Hansen Family Room, or offices. The Altar Guild and Pastors should be the only ones in the Sacristy.
- ◆ Anyone displaying symptoms of COVID-19 will be asked immediately to return home or go to a medical facility. This is to avoid exposure to fellow congregants.