Guidelines for Resuming Worship at

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Centralia, MO

Prepared by the Church Elders and Pastor Kriete

 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

 With the lessening of restrictions for Covid-19 by the State of Missouri, we plan to resume conducting worship services at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Yet, since there is a continual threat from Covid-19, the services will be structured according to the ongoing restrictions set by the State and County.

 The Elders reviewed recommendations to resume worship activity provided by the Missouri District-LCMS and the State of Missouri to provide an agenda that would provide safety and comfort for those returning for worship. As Christians, our concern is always to look out for the safety and wellbeing of our neighbors. To show our concern for each other…

* …we will abide with social distancing, maintaining six (6) feet of space between individuals.
* …we will avoid physical contact with one another, no shaking of hands or hugging.
* …we will wash our hands regularly and use hand sanitizer.
* …we will avoid touching common surfaces and touching our face.
* …we will not attend the service if we show symptoms and are consider “at risk.”

General Information

* Please feel free to wear a mask while at the service. In fact, we recommend it.
* When you arrive and park your car, please allow additional space between the car beside you. If a family is exiting their car next to you, please wait until they are walking in to exit your vehicle.
* Please note there will be no Sunday School or Bible Class at this time. These are very face-to-face and would be difficult to maintain social distancing.

Guidelines for Worship Services

* Worship will be held in the fellowship hall rather than the sanctuary.
* You will enter through the double doors by the office to enter the fellowship hall. A gloved usher will be present to open the doors when you arrive and when you depart. This is to minimize contact with the door handles and possible spread of the virus.
* There will be baskets located at the entrance to the fellowship hall to receive your offering, either as you enter or as you leave.
* Chairs will be positioned in groups of three (3), according to the guidelines for social distancing – six (6) feet of separation.
* If you require additional chairs for your family group, move one from a set of empty chairs next to you or take one from the chair rack at the back. Remember as you position your extra chairs to maintain the six feet of separation.
* A printed bulletin containing the order of worship will be provided for these services. There will be no hymnals or bibles available.
* The bulletins will be located on each of the chair seats. After service we ask that you take your used bulletin home for disposal.
* A stage will be located on the south wall of the fellowship hall containing the Altar and Pulpit. As you enter please be seated in the chairs closest to the stage. Fill seating from front to back. This will help in avoiding accidental contact.
* After service is complete, an usher will dismiss you beginning with the back row and moving forward to the front row. As you depart, please maintain social distance between groups.

Guidelines for Communion Distribution

* For distribution of Communion, the elements will be placed on two tables located in front of the platform. The bread on the right table and the wine on the left table. The elements will be set up in individual portions, so as you pass you are to take one of the breads and one of the wines. As you return to your seats please dispose of used cups in the provided container.
* A bottle of hand sanitizer will be located at the head of the right table (bread) for cleansing your hands before receiving the elements.
* Try not to touch the cups close to the one you pick up. If a cup is spilled let it be and continue on.
* Distribution will be done one row at a time. When one group within a row is receiving communion, the next group should move to the next staging area designated by a mark on the floor. Each row should move forward from one staging area to another. When one group is finished at the sacrament tables, the next group in the row is to come forward. An usher will be directing the flow during the distribution.
* More thorough instructions will be given at the service when communion is provided.
* If a visitor joins you for church and would like to take communion, please call Pastor the day before to confirm.
* As you move to and from the communion table please remember Social distancing from others.

We thank God that throughout this time He has continued to feed us through His Word, affirming within us the promise of our salvation in Jesus Christ, and giving us comfort and strength amidst this trial. We ask His blessing and for His strong hand to be upon us, to protect us as we resume worship at Good Shepherd. Most of all we ask that we love one another as He has loved us.

The Board of Elders

 Gerry Sydow

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