

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH REOPENING GUIDELINES

This document provides guidance to support a safe, clean environment for employees, volunteers, congregants and visitors to resume in-person worship activity. It is recommended that we *also* continue to facilitate remote services for those who are vulnerable to COVID19 (older adults and those with co-morbidities).

SAFETY ACTIONS

Promote healthy hygiene practices

Encourage staff and congregants to maintain good hand hygiene, cover coughs and sneezes, use hand sanitizer and use face coverings when social distancing is difficult.

Intensify cleaning, disinfection and ventilation

Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces after each service (stairwells, handrails, doorknobs, pews).

Ensure that sanitary stations stay stocked (soap, paper towel, hand sanitizer).

Avoid sharing acolyte robes. Consider avoiding use at this time, or washing after each use.

During meetings and services, open doors/windows (weather permitting)

Physical Distancing

We will continue to provide services via Facebook Live and Grace Omro YouTube

There will be three services during the summer to limit the size of gatherings.

Sunday services will be at 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM.

Tuesday (abbreviated communion service *the Tuesday of the week following Sunday Communion Services*) for high risk individuals where **masks will be required** at 4:00 PM starting June 9th.

Every other pew will be closed and keep seating at the ends of the pews to maintain 6ft apart. Families may sit together

Shorten services if possible to limit the length of time congregants spend here, without compromising our belief practices

Doors will be propped open when congregants are entering and exiting if possible. Only side doors will be unlocked

We will discourage handshakes but wave or use other greetings that do not break physical distance

At the close of the services, the ushers will dismiss the congregation row by row to maintain social distancing. We ask that there is no congregating in the back of the church, conversations can be had outside if needed

Youth and adult choirs will be temporarily suspended as social distancing is difficult in performance groups. Congregant singing and reciting during the service will be modified by the physical distancing seating arrangements

Community Sharing of Materials

Hymnals and communion cards will be temporarily removed. Single use bulletins will be placed on a table at the entrance of church by the collection box

The method used to receive financial contributions will be modified. A stationary collection box will be used, and we also encourage electronic methods of collection via paypal

Continuous communion. An usher will release one row, one side at a time. Social distancing markings will be on the floor. Communicants come to the middle aisle one at a time and receive the elements at the bottom of the stairs and return to the pew via the outside aisle. Only the individual cups will be offered which will be spaced every other hole within the tray

If food is offered for weddings or funerals, consider pre-packaged options (avoid buffet if possible)

The nursery will be closed at this time

If Vacation Bible School will be provided during the summer, refer to the CDC's information on "*youth and summer camps*" and adapt as needed