

Dear Brothers & Sisters at Light of Christ,

We are very pleased to announce the resumption of in-person worship as well as the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Holy Communion will initially be celebrated on the first and third Sunday's of the month in an outdoors, drive-thru environment. The first Communion is scheduled for July 5, between 11:00 am and 12:00 pm.

In-person worship is scheduled to resume July 19, with one service at 10 am. As you would imagine, there are many rules and guidelines that impact how these services need to take place. Please keep in mind that in-person attendance is completely optional; the live-streamed services will continue as well even as we re-open.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 exposure and infection rates for inhouse worship services are among the highest of all social activities. Wearing facemasks, avoiding personal contact, social distancing along with frequent handwashing, facility cleaning and sanitation have proven to mitigate these risks. We are implementing processes and procedures to keep us safe. We acknowledge that these guidelines are very restrictive but are necessary.

When returning to in-person services we ask that you and each of your family members follow these health guidelines:

- Take temperature before leaving home. If greater than 100.4, stay at home.
- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer that contain at least 60% alcohol.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or the inside of their elbow.
- At risk members encouraged to stay home and attend services virtually. At-risk individuals as defined by the CDC are:
 - Older adults (risk increases steadily as you age)
 - Chronic kidney disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
 - Obesity (BMI of 30 or higher)
 - Weakened immune system, diabetes (type 1 & 2)
 - Sickle cell disease
 - Heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease or cardiomyopathies
 - Asthma, high blood pressure, pregnancy, cerebrovascular disease
 - Neurologic conditions such as dementia
 - Liver disease
 - Smoking

There will be changes to the in-person attendance procedures. Upon entering the church, a deacon or usher will record your attendance. If after attending services, you or a member of your family have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or have been directly exposed to the virus, please notify the church office. We will advise staff and other congregants with whom you worshiped to take extra precautions.

Initially no more than 50 people will be allowed into the sanctuary. The church offices, kitchen, fellowship hall and downstairs areas are closed. Bathroom use is limited to two persons to each. Please check with the deacon or usher before using.

When entering the church, seating, and exiting the church, social distancing of six feet between family units is required. A family unit is defined as one's spouse, children, parents, grandparents, siblings, as well as one's in-laws, in general, those family or household members with whom you have frequent contact. Do not congregate in the narthex area. There will be no refreshments in the narthex nor will service bulletins or Focus trifolds be handed out.

There are markings in the narthex and sanctuary aisle to help with six-foot social distancing. Be careful entering and exiting the sanctuary as the temporary camera cables are taped across the floor. Do not bump or move the cameras, they are pre-focused for the on-line services.

Please arrive no later than 10-15 minutes before worship to facilitate orderly egress. Remain in your vehicle until the church doors are opened. The doors to the church will be propped open where an usher / deacon will welcome you. Put your face mask on if you have brought one with you or pick up a disposable mask in the narthex. Use hand sanitizer upon entering Sanctuary; disposable gloves are available if desired.

Face coverings are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have symptoms, while providing a level of protection for the wearer. Face masks are to cover the nose and mouth areas and **must be worn at all times** except when taking communion. There are exceptions to the face mask requirement for children under two and for health reasons such as trouble breathing with the face mask on, etc. If in doubt, ask the attending deacon or usher.

The sanctuary and narthex have been cleaned and sanitized. Hymnals, Bibles, and pencils have been removed, the chairs have been covered with a plastic bag and arranged for social distancing. Avoid touching other chairs when entering or standing up and do not rearrange the chairs. Choose a row, sit toward outside of the row keeping three empty seats between family units. Please do not "climb over" others getting to your seats.

We will be using recorded choir music as in-person choirs are prohibited. During the service at the time for sharing of the peace or greeting other congregants please remain in your seated area maintaining your social distancing. We are still developing procedures for in person communion. When services have ended, remain at your seats. An usher will be dismissing rows in an orderly fashion from the back of the sanctuary towards the front altar area. The pastor will remain at the front of the sanctuary until everyone departs. The collection plate will be available in the narthex as you leave.

As you exit the service remove plastic seat covering and along with disposable face masks & gloves, place in open trash bin in narthex. Promptly leave church building; maintaining social distancing when leaving the church and proceed directly to the parking area. For members who will not be attending in-person worship, drive by communion will be offered each 1st and 3rd Sunday after services from 11:00AM until 12:00PM. If you are unable to attend in-person communion, please contact the church office to schedule a time for pastor or an elder to come to your home.

We understand that these restrictive procedures are not only awkward but interfere with important fellowship with our friends and other believers. We ask you to encourage one another keeping in the word through prayer and Bible study and in contact with each other through phone calls, email, and safe in-person visits. Share a story, up lifting news, ask if they are in need and what you can do to help.

We expect that as we walk through these procedures and as we progress though this pandemic there will be changes. We ask for your help and understanding. Please keep our church, your fellow members, and church leadership in your prayers. Pray for the leaders of our country and countries of the world to provide compassion and direction through these challenging times. Give thanks to our medical personnel, first responders and care givers for their devotion and sacrifice. With the grace of God, we have not lost any of our congregation to this virus.

Thank you for your continuing faithfulness and financial support. Working together and enduring a few inconveniences we can continue to thrive as a fellowship of believers.

In His service,

Doug Murphy
Head Elder

Duane Herredsvela
Congregational President