

Redeemer Re-Opening Task Force

LIVESTREAM WORSHIP ONLY WILL CONTINUE THROUGH MAY

Recommendations and Guidelines for Resuming Smaller In-Person Gatherings

We have established a Redeemer Re-Opening Task Force, with a number of medical professionals, to advise and give guidance to our elders and staff as we plan our transition toward renewed in-person gatherings and eventually worshiping together in our new church building. We are incredibly thankful that God has gifted our church with so many medical experts for a time such as this.

It continues to be a difficult time. While we seek to act on the wisdom of our medical professionals and implement their guidance, we recognize the experience of genuine loss. We long to worship together again, in person, in our new building. Yet, at least through May, we will continue to worship together via livestream only. We long to celebrate the Lord's Supper and to commune together again. We lament not being able to do so.

Please pray for continued wisdom for this task force and give thanks for those who are using their medical training and expertise to serve our church and lead us down a wise and safe path during this time.

Please pray for a spirit of unity within our church. There are diverse opinions and perspectives. Pray that God would give us grace to be humble and patient with one another, that we would be quick to listen and slow to speak, and that we would assume the best of one another.

We are going to allow the freedom for some of our smaller ministry groups to gather in person if they desire.

Please read the Recommendations of the Task Force, including Recommendations for Other In-Person Meetings.

Grace and Peace,

David

RECONVENING REDEEMER

A number of our medical professionals met to discuss our pathway towards reconvening in-person gatherings. We have settled upon the following recommendations. We will be meeting on a weekly basis to discuss and update recommendations because the situation is dynamic and changing quickly.

BACKGROUND

1. COVID 19 is primarily transmitted through close contact and in particular, body fluids from the respiratory tract. Coughs, sneezes, speaking and singing create droplets which transmit the virus when they contact others mouth, nose, or eyes. The good news is that most people who are exposed in the community environment will develop no symptoms or only mild symptoms. A small percentage will become sick enough to require hospitalization, and a very, very small percentage will die. Those at the highest risk include people age 65 or older, pregnant females and those with chronic medical conditions, including obesity, hypertension, diabetes, cancer, and lung or heart disease.

2. Those who are carrying the virus may not develop symptoms for up to 14 days and yet still be contagious. This means that even if someone feels healthy, that person can still transmit the virus.

3. It is critical for everyone's safety that if you have any symptoms associated with the coronavirus, **you must stay at home and not participate in face-to-face church activities**. Similarly, if you have had contact with someone who is sick or have travelled to places with high levels of coronavirus patients, you should also refrain from in-person church activities.

4. Methods of disease prevention: The single best way to prevent the spread of the coronavirus is for those who may be sick to stay home. Face masks or face coverings dramatically reduce the spread of respiratory droplets containing the virus. Social distancing further reduces this risk. Social distancing measures include maintaining more than 6 feet of physical separation, not shaking hands, hugging, kissing, or sharing food and drink.

5. We all very much look forward to the resumption of face-to-face, in-person worship in our new church sanctuary and are working towards developing plans to safely implement this in a phased, thoughtful manner.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CORPORATE WORSHIP

Our team recommended not re-instituting corporate worship until we have more data on local transmission. We will be closely observing our local situation over the next 3-4 weeks. Thus, we are not sure when we will begin corporate worship again, but we recommend that it not begin before June 1st.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OTHER IN-PERSON MEETINGS

As our community reopens we have the following recommendations for in-person gatherings.

1. ISOLATION,

- a. If an individual has had close contact (<6 feet) with a person recently diagnosed with active COVID they should not attend in-person gatherings for the following 14 days.
- b. If an individual has just returned from travel to a location with a large number of active COVID cases they should not attend in-person gatherings for the following 14 days.
- c. If an individual has symptoms that could be related to COVID they should not attend in-person gatherings until symptoms clear and a negative COVID test or physician clearance is documented. Symptoms that have been associated with COVID include: Cough, Shortness of breath, Fever, chills, Muscle Pain, Headache, Sore Throat, Loss of taste or smell, Nausea, Vomiting, Diarrhea

2. SOCIAL DISTANCING, attendees should:

- a. Remain 6 feet apart at all times.
- b. Avoid physical contact (no handshakes, hugs etc.)

3. HYGIENE, attendees should:

- a. Utilize sanitizer, hand sanitizer should be available and utilized
- b. Cover cough and sneeze with arm not hand

4. MASK

- a. Masks are recommended

5. FOOD

- a. We recommend not sharing meals or snacks at gatherings

6. VENTILATION

- a. Outdoor activities & gatherings are preferred. If indoor meetings are held, try to optimize space & air turnover (ventilation).

7. CHILDREN

- a. Children should be encouraged to follow the above guidelines

Finally, it is important that people not feel pressure to attend in-person gatherings. We respect individual autonomy, conscience and risk tolerance. When possible, please offer a virtual alternative during in-person meetings, for example Zoom, Face Time etc.

Group Included: John Betik, Skip Culp, Laura Culp, Erin Illian, Paul Hicks, Matthew Lohse, Gary Rapp, David Rapp, Heath Robinson, Jason Smith, Ken Smith, Rachael Traweek, Carolyn Wadley, Jeff White, Joycelynn Young