

September 30, 2020

Hi Friends,

As we celebrated this last weekend, we are so thankful for our backyard and the space it provided enabling us to meet with as many people as possible outdoors during this time of COVID. However, fall has indeed come to Minnesota and it is time to move inside.

The good news is that the inside of our building has been remodeled and much of it is shiny and new! We are excited to celebrate that, show it off, and make use of it for ministry!

However, we also are aware COVID makes gathering inside a bit tenuous and tricky. To combat this head on and help LCC navigate this uncharted territory, we have formed a COVID task force.

Many of you know Amber Keller from her many years on staff here at LCC, and she is heading up this team as our official Covid Response Team Leader. Her attention to detail and her ability to manage will be key in ensuring LCC is up to snuff on all the guidelines and following all the protocols being set up by the state for public gathering places. The team behind her is made up of staff, lead team members, and a number of experienced and knowledgeable medical professionals that call LCC home.

Over the past several months, this team has worked tirelessly to figure out how to make an in-person service work safely. In that time, following much discussion, the following guidelines have been decided upon. We will begin following these during our inaugural service this Sunday, October 4 at 8:45AM. Please review the following guidelines and practices we are adopting for this service in order to safely gather, as well as how to move forward with RSVPing:

- The morning of worship, please vet your health and act accordingly. If you are ill or exhibiting any symptoms associated with COVID — ie fever, cough, etc — please remain home with your family.
- The service itself will begin at 8:45 and last for only 45 minutes to minimize prolonged exposure.
- Though we will be maintaining social distancing practices, we are also asking that you wear a mask and love your neighbor. Children ages 4 and under are exempt.
- We will be keeping contact with shared items to a minimum:
 - No offering plate or bulletins
 - No coffee and donuts — also, please avoid bringing your own beverage, as it will require you to remove your mask to consume.

- Singing will take place at the end of the service and be cut down from our normal worship length. Please feel comfortable leaving at this time if you don't wish to remain for the singing portion.
- We will have a children's worship experience for kids ages 4 years old to 5th grade. Due to a lack of volunteers, we will be unable to offer nursery care at this time. If you are interested in helping us in this ministry, please contact Renee Erickson (renee@linwoodcovenant.org).

As with many things during this odd time, we will continue to evaluate the service and change practices when necessary to ensure the most effective and meaningful worship possible.

If all of these changes and actions are satisfactory to you in terms of wishing to attend in-person worship, we ask that you follow the link below in order to RSVP via SignUp genius. (If you have RSVP'd via a card on Sunday morning you DO NOT have to sign up online also). This will give us a good idea as to the number of people interested in attending. Please also indicate in that sign up whether you'd be interested in attending the second service at a later time (10:30) in the event that is added. (Please contact Wanda Spading - wspading@gmail.com or (651) 402-7298- for assistance.)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508094fada82cabfb6-inperson>

As I spoke to on Sunday, please do not hesitate to RSVP in fear of "taking a worship slot away from someone else." It is imperative that we receive an accurate count of those wishing to worship with us in the sanctuary. This is so we can make an informed decision (even as soon as worship for this Sunday) as to whether a second service will be sustainable from week to week.

This sustainability depends both on worship attendance and the willingness of the LCC family to step into roles they may not have held before. Volunteers are essential to keeping services running, and as of right now, we're coming up short. We need volunteers for both services in the areas of:

- Ushering
- Greeting
- Check-In
- Volunteer Food Coordination
- Children's Worship
- Nursery

If you are willing to help out in any capacity in this, please contact me ASAP.

Finally — an important question to address. What happens if someone attends church and a day or two later becomes ill and/or tests positive for Covid?

If this happens to you, we ask you to contact Amber immediately. While you yourself will remain anonymous, we will use the information to contact others who were in attendance to inform them of potential exposure. Per CDC guidelines, those who were in attendance would only need

to quarantine if they were not wearing a mask or were closer than 6 feet of the diagnosed person for more than 15 minutes.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

- Amber Keller - Covid Safety Administrator (protocol questions, COVID diagnosis):
amber@linwoodcovenant.org
- Pastor Dave (volunteering, additional concerns):
dave@linwoodcovenant.org
- Wanda Spading (RSVP issues):
wspading@gmail.com
- Renee Erickson (Children's Ministry Volunteering Opportunities):
renee@linwoodcovenant.org

I'll leave you with the ancient blessing found in Numbers 6:

*May the Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;
The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.
Amen*

In Christ,

Pastor Dave Ostercamp
dave@linwoodcovenant.org