



Redeemer Lutheran Church

Receive. Rejoice. Reflect.

Coronavirus Update Phase 1 and Phase 2
Saturday, April 25, 2020

Dear Church Family,

There are CDC guidelines and recommendations for Large Events and Mass Gatherings that could possibly spread COVID-19. Since Sunday March 22, 2020, we have been streaming worship services online. We will be continue posting them onto our Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/pg/redeemerlutheranclaremore> Sunday Mornings I will teach a Bible Study on Zoom.us at 9am-10am. And then there will be a service of Prayer and Preaching for Sunday Mornings at 10:30am these will also be streamed on our Facebook page. Click on the Videos tab and you can find the most recent worship services posted there. If you have any technical trouble with either platform, Facebook or Zoom please call me, 918-960-4328. It is easier to troubleshoot before the day of the Bible Study or worship service streaming.

Sunday Morning Zoom Bible Study Meeting ID: 947 430 992 Password: 058424 If you do not have internet or a smartphone/tablet you can call in on the following phone number. +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston) And then enter the Meeting ID and password.

No Communion during these weeks because there is no public worship. If you would like and feel comfortable with a home visit from Pastor Ryan Honeycutt, please contact him to make arrangements.

Wednesday Morning Bible Classes will be held online on Wednesdays at 10am in a Zoom Meeting. I have been meeting with Confirmation Students over Zoom Web Conferencing as well. With this format, we can host up to 100 people in a zoom meeting at a time. Zoom.us meeting Info: **Meeting ID: 143 498 867 Password: 050763**

You will not need to sign up or be logged into Facebook to see the videos or live streams posted there. For Members there is a way of digital giving now on our website. www.rlccok.org And you can also mail in contributions if you prefer that method of support. 220 N. Seminole Ave. Claremore, OK 74017.

Office Hours were suspended the last few weeks because of community spread within our community. I have forwarded the calls from the Church Office to my personal cell phone. On May 1st we will hold Office hours again 9am-4pm. We will be closed to the public but if you have need don't hesitate to call. (918) 341-1429. We will be following Phase 1 Guidelines, and other instructions from our Claremore City guidelines.

On April 23rd, I received this message from President Henke of the OK District.

"The Synod leadership and the Council of Presidents have suggested a gradual reopening date of May 31st but this date totally depends on the progression of the virus. Now several governors have decided the need for an earlier reopening date.

As you know, Governor Stitt has announced a gradual reopening of the state which includes churches. It is problematic that his "reopening" plans are in direct conflict with some of the mandates imposed by certain mayors, primarily Tulsa and Oklahoma City. You may be in a community where the mayor has said nothing, or a rural community where there is no policy. Thus, there is much confusion about the process of "reopening". I tend to think that the operative word is gradual when it comes to reopening. However this gradual reopening is done it should be done lovingly and conscientiously while keeping in mind the most vulnerable in your membership. Would this involve social distancing in the sanctuary, namely ever other pew? Would it involve distribution of Holy Communion in a very sterile manner? Would it mean a temporary discontinuance of the chalice? Would it involve the wearing of masks in worship? Will it involve a gradual re-entry into worship life throughout the month of May and June? Will it involve shorter

services until the threat is over? Will it involve sterilizing the pews/chairs and hymnals after each service? So many questions!

The fact is that you know your congregation and your community better than I do. Therefore, I trust your judgment in how this gradual re-opening occurs in your church setting. These are decisions to be made by the pastor working in tandem with the congregational leadership. I don't believe there are definite right or wrong answers in this discussion. But I do know that it has become an emotional issue for many people, so tread lovingly. If a neighboring congregation re-opens for service on the first Sunday of May, you should not be constrained to follow suit. Your re-opening procedures as determined by the congregational leadership should be done in the most expedient and loving way, even if they are more gradual than a neighboring congregation."

We at Redeemer will be having a more gradual opening of services, while not excluding people from our worship services when they open up again to the public. This is not like the flipping of a light switch, and our community can only go from Phase 1 to Phase 2 or to Phase 3 if the all the previous guidelines and benchmarks are being met for containing the spread of COVID-19.

During Phase 1 we are going to continue streaming worship on Facebook only, and Zoom for Bible Studies. During Phase 2 we might be able to gradual return to a smaller format of worship, while keeping social distance and sterilization protocols.

Phase 3 sounds exciting because at that point, the Governor's plan describes going back to more normal interactions for worship. This Phase 3 sounds like this would be the time for gathering for worship again publicly. I have been in email contact with the pastors of the Claremore Ministerial Alliance as we each plan for our own congregations. Many of them are looking at gradual openings as well following the guidelines and protocols of our local and state governments.

I have attached an update from the City of Claremore and the Governor's plan, the OURS plan, the Open Up and Recover Safely Plan to inform you of the specifics of each Phase.

God's Blessings to you and your families and please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Ryan if you have any questions.

In His Peace,

Pastor Ryan Honeycutt

revryanhoneycutt@gmail.com

From the City of Claremore's Website.

According to the Governor's press release issued on April 22, 2020, Oklahoma's reopening plan will occur as follow:

Phase 1 Guidance includes:

- Elderly (65 yrs. +) and vulnerable (lowered immune systems) Oklahomans should continue to follow the safer-at-home guidelines.
- Oklahomans should continue to maximize their physical distance from others when in public, avoid socializing in groups or facilities that do not allow for appropriate physical distancing, and minimize non-essential travel.
- Employers should create plans to allow employees to return to work in phases, close common areas or enforce social distancing protocols, minimize non-essential travel and

honor requests of employees who are part of a vulnerable population for special accommodations.

- Starting on April 24, personal care businesses can reopen for appointments only if they adhere to strict sanitation protocols and are in communities that do not have more restrictions in place. This includes: hair salons, barber shops, spas, nail salons, and pet groomers. These businesses must maintain distance between customers and encourage customers to wait in their car until it is time for their appointment to avoid congestion in the lobbies or entrances.
- Starting on April 24, State parks and outdoor recreation areas can be reopened.
- Grocery stores should continue to maintain special hours for vulnerable populations.
- Starting on May 1, restaurant dining rooms, movie theaters, gyms and sporting venues can re-open statewide if they adhere to strict social distancing and sanitation protocols.
- Starting on May 1, places of worship can reopen for in-person meetings or worship, if they leave every other row or pew open and adhere to CDC-recommended social distancing and sanitation protocols, plus the recommended guidelines from the Oklahoma Department of Commerce.
- Starting on May 1, tattoo parlors can reopen for appointments only and must adhere to sanitation protocols and social distancing protocols for distancing between customers and visitors.
- During Phase 1, visits to senior living facilities and hospitals are prohibited and bars, schools, organized sporting events and camps should remain closed until further notice. If Oklahoma's hospital and incident rates remain manageable for 14 days, the State will move to Phase 2.

The Governor also updated guidelines for Essential Businesses, and more information can be found at <https://www.okcommerce.gov/wp-content/uploads/Oklahoma-Essential-Industries-List.pdf>. Non-essential businesses are currently permitted to reopen May 1, 2020.

The latest health information can be found at <https://coronavirus.health.ok.gov>.