

Returning to Worship at Good Shepherd Overview

Good Shepherd has chosen to take a cautious and safer approach to our return to worship. We know there are congregations that returned to worship in their buildings as early as May, and there are some who are not even considering this until August. Our guiding values in these decisions are always to keep our members safe, care for our neighbors, and to continue fostering community. Guided by these values, we are taking many precautions to mitigate risk for those who will be returning to worship at Good Shepherd, but we will also continue offering online worship, House Church, and online ministries to foster community for all of us.

Whenever you choose to physically return to Good Shepherd for worship, many aspects of our corporate worship gathering will be modified. While none of us necessarily like these changes, we understand that they are necessary to mitigate risk and care for one another during this season. This document is to provide you a brief overview on what to expect. Our full document for Returning to Worship at GSLC is also available.

DISCERNING: Should I come or continue worshipping online? How often should I come?

- If you, or someone in your immediate family is at high risk, we encourage you to prayerfully consider continuing to worship online. We are also offering House Church on Wednesdays to receive Holy Communion together and connect in prayer and fellowship.
- If you, or anyone in your household exhibits any Covid-like symptoms, you must stay home.
- If you are ready to return to worship at Good Shepherd, please be aware that we will have limited capacity at first. You may consider coming every other week to help ensure there is plenty of space for all who wish to attend.

PREPARING:

Due to capacity limitations and preparedness for contact tracing, we will be requiring members to **sign up in advance** to attend. This can be done in the **Good Shepherd Connect app** (best, easiest way), online, or by contacting Brenda Ogroski at bogroski@gslcelca.org, or 636-391-6685. (Your GS Connect login is first letter of first name + Last name, e.g. "Jbrecht")

- We will have a waitlist option if our services fill up.
- The sign-up for the upcoming week will open on Monday mornings.
- Worship staff and volunteers (Ushers, Greeters, A/V, Musicians) do not need to sign-up.

ENTERING:

As you enter the building, you will be greeted and checked in at the door. Someone will also be available to check temperatures (with a touchless thermometer).

- Enter/Exit through Narthex doors only (North and Costco-side doors)
- Check in & Temperature Checks (Anyone running a fever will need to go home)
- Masks are to be worn (exceptions made for medical reasons)
- Proceed directly to Sanctuary (no gathering in Narthex, no donuts or coffee served)

SANCTUARY/WORSHIP:

Worship will be a bit different to accommodate social distancing and sanitizing requirements, seeking to minimize touch points as much as possible.

- No printed bulletins. We will use screens only at this time
- No materials in pew racks (hymnals, etc. will be removed)
- Seating will be in designated pews with a minimum of 6 feet between individuals or families (family units may sit together)
- Masks must be worn throughout worship (except young children or for medical reasons)
- No singing by congregation. Encourage humming or prayerful reflection on text
- Sharing peace will be verbal and waving only (no touch or moving around)
- Offering will be received electronically or in back of sanctuary as you enter
- Communion will be at the end of worship, worshippers to proceed out after receiving
- No gathering in narthex. Fellowship can occur outside (Masks and social distancing)
- No Nursery available

(Yes, we know. We don't like it either, but we know this is necessary to gather safely in person)

FAQ's

Will two worship services with limited capacity be enough?

We do not know yet. We suspect it will, based on what we are hearing from members about comfort levels of returning, but we will monitor this closely and be ready to expand as needed.

What if people just show up at the door? What about visitors?

We recognize pre-registering to attend worship is counter-intuitive to our normal spirit of welcome. We also realize this is necessary to care for and protect one another right now. We will make every effort to communicate and publicize directions for signing up. Also remember this is a temporary measure and we anxiously await the time when our doors are open without limits!

Should children come? Will there be nursery?

We absolutely want our kids to come for worship if families are comfortable! We will not have nursery or children's ministry at this time. Families are invited to sit together. We will not have any of our usual children's items available (Spark Bibles or Busy Bags) so we encourage you to bring materials for your kids with you. We do ask that parents stay with children, accompany to the restroom, etc.