

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE Good Shepherd

Scott Trevithick, Lead Pastor

March 12, 2021

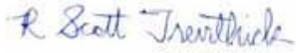
Dear Good Shepherd friend,

Following two recent meetings of the Good Shepherd COVID Task Force and input from the church office staff and Worship Team, **the Good Shepherd Governing Board has approved a plan to resume in-person worship beginning April 18.** While we don't expect this date to change, we will ask the Task Force to continue to monitor data from the Washoe County Health District. You may recall that in September 2020, we created a plan to resume in-person worship in October, but COVID numbers increased rapidly in the meantime and so we continued to worship through live-streaming services rather than inviting people in-person. While we would love to be in-person for Easter, waiting until April 18 was assessed to be the better plan than the additional risks of exposing the worship team to greater numbers of people in a short time frame (as many as five services in four days), particularly when the majority of them have not received vaccinations.

As guided by public health sources such as the CDC and the Nevada Roadmap to Recovery Plan, we will implement other health and safety practices, such as mask wearing, physical distancing, frequent hand washing and sanitizing, and minimizing physical contact. We will use our email-based reservation system and ask people to reply by email or phone call. We will send the reservation invitation email the week before April 18 and proceed week-by-week. We have set an initial capacity limit of 40 worshippers, plus worship team members.

When we resume on April 18, we will offer two services: at 9 a.m. with our band and at 11 a.m. with small choir and more traditional liturgy. The 11 a.m. service will be livestreamed. So that all may worship safely, we ask that you stay home and view the service on our YouTube channel if you are feeling unwell. When attending in-person, kindly wear a mask over nose and mouth, sit with your family group, and maintain a 6 foot or more physical distance from those not in your family cluster. When we greet you at the door, we'll take your temperature with a quick-read thermometer as an additional safety measure.

We are all eager to return to in-person worship and have prepared this plan to balance that desire with existing risks and allow preparation which helps us mitigate those risks. If you have comments or questions, you may direct them to Pastor Scott or Celia Kupersmith, who is our Governing Board President as well as a member of the COVID Task Force.



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Celia Kupersmith
Gov. Board President and Task Force member
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If you wish for more information about updated guidelines:

CDC: Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People, March 8, 2021.
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>

Nevada's Roadmap to Recovery, February 2021. <https://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/NV-Roadmap-to-Recovery-Feb-2021.pdf>