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Rev. Jonathan Oetting, Pastor

**In Preparation to
Celebrate the Church Family Gathered
Together
Set for Sunday, June 7, 2020**

The following is a list of the procedures that we will be implementing to mitigate the chances of spreading the Coronavirus to one another when we return to worship in our sanctuary. The Nevada Department of Health and Human Services and the Governor's Office have given the go-ahead for Places of Worship to be able to gather together again. We must limit our gatherings to 50 people with many other safety protocols in place. Here is Our Savior Lutheran Church's plan to move forward.

It Begins with You!

Every member and visitor should understand the dangerous nature of this contagious disease and take appropriate personal measures to lessen the risk of spreading the virus. This is "agape" love that we so frequently talk about in Christianity.

- It is sacrificial love that gives up our personal wants, desires and even rights for the sake of others.
- It not only gives these up but does so willingly and gladly.
- This is what Paul is speaking about in 1 Corinthians 13, when he says,
- "love does not insist on its own way."
- He follows by saying that Love is "Not irritable or resentful" and that
- "love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things and endures all things."

So let's get ready to show the world some real Christian agape love and joyfully work together to keep each other safe, enjoy our modified time of worship and fellowship and rejoice that we are on the road to recovery! In short, a healthy, loving attitude is critical.

Each Person Can Take These Steps to Lessen the Risk of Spreading the Virus

1. Do a self-evaluation of your health prior to coming to church. If you do not feel well or have a fever, stay home. If you have a cough, stay home. Take temperature checks at your home prior to attendance. If you have had a cough, fever, shortness of breath, rash or bodily aches in the last 14 days, stay home. If you have been in personal contact with someone who has been ill in the last 14 days, stay home.
2. If you are in a high-risk category (underlying conditions like diabetes, asthma, obesity, etc.) please stay home.
3. Prior to coming to church, please wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
4. All participants are encouraged to wear face masks. When coming to church, make sure that you bring your own facemask with you.
5. Bring your own Bible. We will temporarily remove all hymnals, bibles, cards, pens from the pews

**Okay, I've done my personal stuff and I've got a smile on my face.
What do I do once I get to church?**

Once you get to church, please follow these safety steps and expect the following measures to be taken:

1. Please show love by leaving the parking closest to the church entrance for our "less mobile" citizens. As a rule of thumb, the more mobile you are, park further away from the sanctuary entrance.
2. Please enter through the main double doors, which will be propped open and maintain social distancing of 6 feet as you are waiting to enter. Do not sneak in other doors to try to avoid the line. Have your face mask that covers both your nose and mouth on.
3. Please proceed to the disinfecting stands where you will find hand sanitizer.
4. Deposit your offering in the offering plates stationed at each entrance inside the sanctuary doors.
5. Sit in alternating rows. Do not try to sit in the rows that are taped off or blocked. Maintain social distancing of 6 feet between family units. Please be courteous and take seats that are closest to the side or center aisles so that others can sit at the opposite end if needed, while keeping the 6' space between family units in the center of each pew.
6. Limit gathering in restroom to one or two persons at a time.
7. The nursery room will be closed during the service.
8. Holy Communion will be prepared by masked, gloved persons and then distributed in a safe way by masked/gloved servers. The communion will be distributed continuously from the center aisle. Pastor Jon (masked and gloved) will drop a communion wafer onto your outstretched hand. You can pick up a communion cup out the communion tray, which will have the communion cups spread out to avoid touching other cups. You can then return to your seat by the outer rows.
9. We strongly encouraging everyone to stay in their seat until the service is over and then we will usher everyone out by rows. You may exit any of the two exits out of our sanctuary. We ask again that our "less mobile" citizens have the right of way out the main doors while more mobile persons exit through the side door. Please maintain 6 feet between you and others that are not in your family group.
10. For a church family that loves each other, the following precautions are going to be a challenge...
 - Only "Air Greetings" such as "air hugs," "air high fives," "air thumbs up," "howyadoin head nods."
 - There will not be a gathering time or place for hospitality at the end of the service.
 - Yes that means no donuts at this time. Sacrifice yes. You're welcome.

What Will the Worship Service Itself Look Like?

Since the vast majority of clinical studies suggest that the primary form of transmission of the novel coronavirus is through the air, we will do everything possible to limit this sort of transmission. This means the following:

- Please wear your mask during time of public speaking...The Creed, The Lord's Prayer, and at all times of singing.
- We will limit congregational verbal responses at this time
- We will only have songs before the sermon and at the end, like we've done for our online worship.
- We will limit the times of standing/sitting to minimize the movement of air. We will stand for the reading of the Gospel and for prayers.
- The windows and doors of the sanctuary will be opened and fans positioned so that there is air circulation.

By implementing these measures during the service, we will easily meet the state's goal of limiting the time that people are together, limiting the amount of speaking that could introduce airborne particles, limiting movement that could stir up airborne pathogens and reducing the number of surfaces that are touched by individuals.

Following the service, the sanctuary and restrooms will receive a deep cleaning.

What about Small Groups & Bible Studies?

At this time there are no physical gatherings scheduled for small groups and Bible Studies. Plan on "Zoom" Bible Studies where those that can meet online may join via Zoom. The church has its own Zoom account so if your group is interested in using the account then please contact Pastor Jon.

Pastor, I'm Just Scared. I'm Older and This Virus Terrifies Me!

Yes, our elderly with many others with underlying medical conditions are certainly the most vulnerable. Therefore, we will continue to publish a video version of the worship service each week so you can stay home if that makes you more comfortable. It is available by going to our website www.oslcsparks.org or on our YouTube channel, "Our Savior Lutheran Church at Sparks." You can also remain in your vehicle and worship in the parking lot as the service will be broadcasted on 100.5 FM. You are welcome to bring bread and wine with you from home and Pastor Jon will have a brief communion service with you by your vehicle directly after the service.

How Can I Help? What Needs To Be Done?

First and foremost, PRAY that God will bless us and protect us. Second, remember that it begins with you, and an attitude of gratitude will go a long way in helping us out. We will need volunteers to:

1. Greet people, count people and record names for attendance.
2. Oversee the disinfecting table and disinfectant stands.
3. Help sterilize after each worship service.
4. Help usher in the sanctuary (facilitate seating people, dismissing people at the end)
5. Help usher in the parking lot (direct people to parking spots, record who is there for the Drive-In Service only and let Pastor Jon know so that he can commune them afterwards).

If you can help in any of these areas, please respond by Saturday to via email to office-oslc-sparks@att.net or you may call the church office at 775-358-0743.

Finally, and this is very important.

To make certain that we do not exceed the Nevada guidelines for attendance we will be offering a Drive-In Service that runs concurrently with the 9:00 AM Inside Worship service.

As we are small congregation we will not require RSVPs but if our inside numbers have met the 50 maximum people then we will ask those who arrive to remain and worship in their vehicles. If we actually reach the limit for attendance then you will not be let in. This is important. Your options then will be to attend the Drive-In service or worship online.

Procedural Addendum

In order to be able to gather within our First Amendment rights of free exercise of religion:

Before We Gather

- Signs posted stating social-distancing requirements
- Hand sanitizer and hand-washing stations readily available and stocked
- Doors (exterior and interior) propped open for touch-less entry and exit (for duration of event)
- Air circulation (for duration of event)
- Communion elements prepared and distributed by individual masked and gloved
- Masks encouraged
- All paper info forms, flyers, etc. removed from entrance of sanctuary.

During Worship

- No hymnals used by congregants (by clergy only), single use bulletins.
- Congregants seated/stand by family units at least 6 feet apart
- Change our friendly greeting system (no shaking hands, no hugs) to “air greetings” waving from social distance of 6’+
- Congregants to receive Communion in continuous distribution following social distancing.
- Collection of the offering system as you enter sanctuary
- Congregants exit sanctuary in respective family units, maintaining at least 6 feet of social distance

After Worship

- Communion vessels are washed/cleaned
- Seating areas are cleaned/sanitized
- Restrooms checked for cleanliness
- Hand sanitizer and hand-washing stations checked for adequate supply
- And yes, encouraging all to avoid touching face as well as washing hands often