

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills

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A Congregation of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod



June 10, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Reopening Team has done a significant amount of work in the last month to assess the reopening of Good Shepherd based on available guidelines and benchmarks. After deliberation, we believe we can safely open for worship beginning Sunday, June 21, with certain provisions in place. Attached are highlights of what to expect in worship and general guidelines for returning to Good Shepherd.

Prior to our first worship service back on June 21, we will share with you a video about the reopening process. Watch for that video to be available the middle of next week.

As we come back to worship, we ask your patience. We'll spend some time that first Sunday back reviewing the new guidelines for worship. It's possible these guidelines may change over time. We'll learn each week what is working and what needs modified. Also, if state and health guidelines change, we may need to alter Good Shepherd's guidelines. Patience and flexibility will be required in the near term and in the future.

We also ask for your understanding. In John 13:34-35, Jesus says to his disciples, *"³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to **love one another**. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."* Reopening Good Shepherd requires a balance between satisfying the desire to gather, worshipping with fellow believers and ensuring safety for parishioners. We will not turn anyone away, however we are obligated to remind our vulnerable population, because we love and care for you, to consider staying home to worship for the safety of your health.

Pastor Tim and Pam had already planned to be visiting family during the month of June. We asked Pastor Tim to please not change his plans, therefore he will not be present at our reopening on June 21. Ray Betler and Ray Vogel have graciously offered to lead us in worship that day. Ray Betler will provide the message and Ray Vogel will be the assisting elder.

In closing, if you plan to attend our reopening service on June 21, we ask you to [email](#) or call the office and let us know how many in your family will be attending. We would like to get an estimate of how many people to expect in worship to ensure appropriate social distancing can be adhered to. We are excited to see you again and filled with anticipation to Praise the Lord together!

In Christ,

Pastor Tim Bickel

Ray Betler, Reopening Team Leader

Ray Vogel, Elder Chair

Scott Thurston, President

RETURN TO WORSHIP



Gathering Together: When it Begins

- Sunday, June 21
- Single Service at 10am
- No Communion (Pastor is away) until July

Caring for One Another: Safety Protocols

- Hand sanitizer is readily available in the narthex.
- Masks are required for everyone over the age of 2.
- Refrain from singing. Hum to the music instead.
- Replace handshakes with a wave.
- Pews will be roped off to enable social distancing in the sanctuary.
- Services will continue to be made available online.
- Ushers to direct sanctuary exit after the service beginning with the back row.

Caring for One Another: How You Can Help

- Stay home if you feel sick.
- Follow the social distancing guidelines.
- Wear a mask if you are over the age of 2.
- Wash your hands frequently.
- Cover your cough or sneeze.
- Make sure the church office has your phone number for contact tracing purposes if needed.

GENERAL GUIDELINES



Building Preparation

- Disinfecting and cleaning of the entire building prior to reopening by Bactronix. All surfaces will remain disinfected for the next year.
- The facility will continue to be cleaned on a regular, weekly basis. No harsh chemicals will be used.
- Signage will be posted promoting healthy hygiene practices.

Facility

- Park leaving one space between vehicles.
- Enter through open doors.
- Refrain from visiting the lower level of the building.
- Walk to the office hallway area only to use the upper level restrooms. Refrain from walking down the Preschool hallway or entering the classrooms.

Narthex and Sanctuary Area

- Entire service to be on the monitors.
- Minimal number of bulletins and Weekly Tidings available.
- Bibles, hymnals, envelopes and pencils have been removed from the pews.
- Busy Bags have been removed.
- Magazines and Portals of Prayer available to take home.
- Refrain from mingling indoors. Visit with one another outside.
- All to remain seated in the pew for the Children's Message.
- All windows and doors to remain open for circulation.

GENERAL GUIDELINES



Sunday Morning Worship

- Inform the church office if you intend on attending worship. A quick email or phone call providing your family name and the number expected to attend. We may request to confirm a phone number as well, in case it is ever needed for contact tracing purposes.
- Are you anxious about attending worship in-person? Are you concerned because you are over the age of 65 or have an underlying health condition that puts you at a higher risk for severe illness? Don't worry. We support you and encourage you to stay home. Join us by worshipping online.
- Worship services will continue to be available online via the website and YouTube. Recordings will be available mid-week following Sunday's service.

Sick Room Isolation

- If you become sick during worship, please exit the building and take yourself home.
- If you cannot leave immediately, please go to the upper level ladies' restroom until you are able to safely exit the building and return home.
- We would request a fellow church member to inform the church staff or an usher of the situation so a sign may be placed on the door temporarily closing this room to other worshippers.
- If the upper level ladies' room is occupied with a sick person, then the lower level ladies' restroom is available for use.
- Following any sick room isolation, the room will be cleaned and disinfected when appropriate after the individual exits the room.