



July 23, 2020

Dear Friends,

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ!

After many months and many meetings with the Elders and Council, Concordia has established a plan for reopening the congregation for one weekly 9:30 a.m. worship service beginning Sunday, August 2, 2020. Please know that live streaming of services will continue each week as well on Concordia's Facebook page.

On the following pages you will find the plan as it has been established by the Elders and Church Council. The health and safety of attendees and the staff of the church have been made a priority and believe that this plan does this effectively while not greatly impacting the normal content of the service.

Worship participants will be required to register for attendance in the week prior to service and answer some prescreening questions at the time of registration. Seating is limited and will be assigned on a first come first serve basis and you will need to register for service each week you plan to attend.

**Registration for the August 2, 2020 9:30 a.m. service begins on Monday, July 27, 2020** and continues until Noon on Friday, July 31, 2020.

If you have any questions, **PLEASE** feel free to contact the church office.

We're looking forward to seeing you here when you are ready to return.

With Great Joy In Christ Jesus,

Concordia's Board of Elders, Church Council, and Pastor Brown

Starting Sunday, August 2, 2020, one service will be held on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. each week.

Since service attendance will be limited, we will continue to provide service resources for people to access from home. This way, everyone will still have the opportunity to worship and hear the message.

We urge those who are over the age of 65, have medical conditions that increase their risk of infection or complications, are feeling ill, or have been recently exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, are asked to wait to worship with us in person until another Sunday.

Attendance will be limited to an estimated maximum of 40 (and as few as 18 based on family groups that have registered) people in the sanctuary (the estimated number of worshippers that may safely gather in the sanctuary) and seats will be assigned beforehand to ensure both proper social distancing and having the maximum number of people able to attend.

Those desiring to attend service will be required to sign up the week before (Monday-Friday). You may call the church office at 396-9035 to sign up. Reservations must be made by Noon (12:00 p.m.) on Friday for the upcoming Sunday.

A family group is defined as a group of individuals living at the same residence. Only members of the same family group will be assigned to sit together during worship.

Most seating locations in the sanctuary will only accommodate 2 people (and a small child). Family groups with more than 2 people will be assigned to sit in more than one seating location. A limited number of seating locations can accommodate seating of more than 2 people and will be assigned on a first come first serve basis. If at all possible please do not request these locations and leave them for larger families that require them, such as families with younger children.

When you register for worship you will be asked the following questions:

### **1. Symptoms**

Do you have any of the following: fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle/body aches, headaches, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea that you cannot attribute to another health issue?

### **2. Exposure**

Have you been exposed to anyone in the last 14 days who was experiencing any of the above symptoms, OR are being tested for OR have been diagnosed with Covid-19?

### **3. Travel**

Have you travelled outside of Iowa in the past 14 days?

If any of these statements are answered “YES” you will be asked to wait and not attend worship until an appropriate 14 day quarantine period has been reached.

All service attendees will be required to enter the church through the East Entry into the Narthex area of the church. Doors will be opened for service attendees to begin screening and seating at 9:00 a.m.

Upon entry each attendee will be screened for temperature by an Elder/Usher and asked if any of the responses to the questions asked at the time of registration have changed. If they have – you again will be asked to not participate in services until such time as proper 14 day quarantine guidelines have been reached. If you have a temperature of above 100° F you will also be asked to wait until a future date to attend worship services.

Members 3 years old and older are required to wear a mask that always covers your nose and mouth while in the church per the CDC health guidelines. If you do not have a mask, there will be a limited number of masks available for you at the church.

Those who have signed up to attend will receive their seating assignment when they arrive at the church and will be ushered to your seat. Bulletins for the service will already be in your pew when you arrive.

It is important that each family group not only sit in the correct pew, but also the correct section in that pew to maintain proper distance and maximize the number of people who may attend.

Attendees are asked to remain 6 feet away from people not in their family group and to make use of the available hand sanitizer.

Some areas of the church (the choir loft, the basement area, and fellowship hall, etc.) will be closed during church services. Please do not enter these areas.

Offering plates will not be passed during the service. Tithes and offerings may be placed in the offering plates located in the Narthex or worshippers may use one of Concordia's electronic giving options.

Congregation members may participate fully in responses and singing during the service.

ONLY the fellowship Hall restrooms will be open for use. We encourage you to use the restroom at home prior to coming to worship. As always, please wash your hands! Additional disinfectant wipes will be provided in the restrooms and you are asked to wipe down any handles or surfaces that have been touched. We ask that you limit the restroom use to one person/family at a time. Children must be accompanied by an adult when using the restroom. Additional trash cans will be placed outside each restroom.

At the end of the service Elders/Ushers will dismiss each family group, starting in the back and working our way forward.

Please bring all items used during worship with you when you leave including bulletins, tissues, etc. Trash receptacles and recycling bins for bulletins will be in the Narthex. Please place items in the proper receptacles when you leave.

We encourage worshipers who desire to "mingle" after service, to do so outside of the building, while keeping a safe distance from each other.

The Board of Elders and Pastor will continue to monitor the situation and receive input from other congregation members. If the need arises, last minute changes may be made including the postponing or cancelling of services.

Holy Communion will be celebrated at a future date which has not yet been determined.

Procedures are subject to change as needed for the safety of everyone.

If after any worship service you find out that you were unknowingly exposed and have need of testing OR you have been tested and have test positive for COVID-19, **PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH IMMEDIATELY.**

God bless you all. We are very much looking forward to being together again as the people of God here at Concordia! We also look forward to seeing the individuals and families who choose to wait longer and worship online for a while longer before coming back. Hopefully, no one feels any pressure one way or the other as to when they elect to return. We recognize this is a deeply personal decision and we respect whatever you decide.