

Guidelines/Expectations as we Reopen Sanctuary for Worship

In response to the relaxed Directed Health Measures from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, the Deacons have planned to resume in-person worship services beginning Sunday, May 31. Along with the relaxed Directed Health Measures, churches have been provided with guidelines for reopening. An outline of those guidelines has been posted on our website. Over the past couple of weeks, the Board of Deacons have reached out to Board and Committees to coordinate this reopening. The following is a summary of those conversations and that input. We want to be clear: we encourage persons and families to participate at the level to which they are most comfortable. And for that reason, we will continue to focus certain aspects of our service on the livestream so that those who cannot yet join in person are not left out.

Beginning Sunday, May 31, 2020, selected entrances will be open at 9:00 a.m. for you to come into the sanctuary. Worship will begin at 9:30 a.m.:

- Open entrances for worship include: the narthex, the southeast handicap entrance and the east entrance by the offices.
Doors will be propped open with an usher in attendance nearby.
- When entering for worship we encourage each person to wear a mask as an expression of love and care for others worshiping together with us. If you do not have a mask or have forgotten to bring one with you, we hope to have home-made cloth masks available for your use should you desire one.
- As you enter the sanctuary and throughout the service, we ask that you please do your best to maintain and respect others space.
- Printed bulletins will be placed on the pews prior to the service. You will not find hymnals in the pews.
- Offering baskets will be made available at the exits as offering bags will not be passed.

Seating and Facilities Details

- You are encouraged to be seated immediately upon entering the sanctuary.
- The pews are marked in six-foot sections to enable you to seat yourselves and maintain a six-foot distance between households. We understand that some of you have been seeing and spending time with your various family groups. Please use your best judgement and communicate with your families as to your comfort level in distance. We understand that finding a seat may take a few minutes since your favorite area or pew may not be available since we are not able to use every pew.
- *Narthex Entrance:* Please use the center aisle and once in a pew, move down the pew to the farthest available space.
- *East or Southeast Entrance:* Persons entering these doors may either choose to seat themselves using the center aisle for the main sections or the side aisles between the main section and the transepts for seating in the transepts. Ushers will be available to assist you.
- *Restrooms:* For the sake of the cleaning staff, the Board of Business has requested that we limit the use of restrooms to those in the narthex area including the cry rooms. The

handicapped restroom will also be available. We ask that you do not use the remainder of the building including the nursery, so that cleaning staff do not feel the need to sanitize surfaces beyond what is necessary.

- The Board of Business has also informed us they will be using the ventilation system prior to the service to cool the sanctuary but will be turning it off during the service.

At the conclusion of the service, you will be ushered out by row when the service has concluded. Please do not gather for conversation in the sanctuary but proceed toward the available exits.

The CDC and Nebraska Directed Health Measures do not allow for nursery care, Sunday School, or additional events outside of worship alone. Thank you for your grace as we work to make our facilities as clean and as safe as possible.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we take this first step toward returning to collective worship.