

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

President's Message

October 7, 2020

Dear Immanuel Community,

I trust you and your family are safe and well and enjoying our beautiful fall weather. Thanks to everyone who responded to the Immanuel Community Feedback Questionnaire. We welcome and value your feedback. If you have not already done so, we encourage you to complete this important questionnaire.

As announced in last Friday's edition of *Inside Immanuel Weekly*, we are actively preparing a trial in-person worship service in the Immanuel Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, October 18, 2020. Although this service will be different than what you are used to, we have an opportunity to worship together (in-person) while maintaining appropriate safety precautions. As Jesus reminds us, "Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:31 NIV)

To maintain the lowest level of acceptable risk for those attending this in-person worship service, we incorporated expert guidance from multiple ELCA synods. The Church Council then unanimously adopted a Council Resolution for in-person worship on October 1, 2020 (see below).

If you are planning to attend the in-person worship service on October 18, 2020, please carefully read this resolution since all attendees will be required to comply with these guidelines. The basic requirements are to sanitize your hands, have your temperature checked upon arrival at the service, practice safe physical distancing and wear a face covering at all times while on church grounds (except when taking communion). Singing and congregational spoken responses are suspended during the worship service.

Your decision to attend the trial in-person worship service or the YouTube online worship service is a very personal one. You should consider your and your family's health risks, your family and community responsibilities, and your desire to worship together in the Immanuel Sanctuary. Whichever option you choose, please know it is your decision and others cannot make it for you. We will respect your decision and ask that you respect the decisions of others.

Reservations for the trial in-person worship service on *October 18, 2020 (10:30 a.m.)* will open on **Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. and will only be accepted by telephoning the church office at **208-344-3011**.**

Church Council Resolution: Return to In-Person Worship

(Based on recommendations from the Bishop, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod ELCA)

The Church Council of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Boise, Idaho hereby resolves to resume in-person worship in the Immanuel Sanctuary on October 18, 2020 with a trial worship service. Future in-person worship services will be determined by congregational compliance with required safety practices and according to current CDC and Idaho Central District Health guidelines.

Consistent with our calling to love and care for one another and for the health of our neighbors, **any person attending in-person worship must wear a mask and maintain safe physical distancing.** Those who are ill, have tested positive for COVID-19, or who are in vulnerable populations should refrain from attending in-person worship. Persons exposed to COVID-19, or who have previously tested positive for COVID-19, must refrain from attending in-person worship until at least [two weeks] after they have had no symptoms or have tested negative for the presence of the virus.

Persons who choose to attend in-person worship agree to inform the church promptly if they learn they have been exposed to COVID-19. Notice of COVID-19 exposure should be made by calling the church office at 208-344-3011 and should inform us of the relevant date(s) of in-person attendance.

The church will then make appropriate, anonymous notifications to others who may have been in attendance on the same date, so they may take appropriate steps to protect their health and safety. The church office will also notify public health authorities and will assist them in any efforts to undertake contact tracing.

Here is the proposed **Worship Service Content** for the October 18 in-person worship service:

- Prelude Music
- Pastor's Welcome Comments
- Confession and Forgiveness
- Prayer of the Day
- Readings
- Sermon
- Instrumental Music
- Prayers of Intercession
- Lord's Prayer (congregation to either whisper or silently follow along)
- Communion

- Blessing
- Ministry News
- Sending Music as pods (groups of people) are dismissed one by one and exit via the Hospitality Room, Office area and ultimately to Fort Street or the Immanuel back alley.

As we navigate these unique and challenging times, we ask God to bless us all with good health, patience & understanding, and love for one another.

Thank you and God's Peace,

Les Gieselman, President
Immanuel Lutheran Church