

Update on In-person Worship at St. Luke

The increased vaccination rate and the governor's recent plan to "re-open" the state in mid-June (with continued mask requirements) if COVID hospitalization rates remain low gives us hope for a Summer return to on-site worship.

However, it is vital for everyone to understand the scope of the return effort and work to stay informed by attending the Sunday 10:15 a.m. Zoom Fellowship and Prayer hour for the latest updates. Your input is needed!

The considerations for returning to on-site worship are many:

- The council is committed to ensuring online worship remains available even after on-site worship is back full force. New equipment has been purchased, but we still need to increase internet speed, create a new recording process and learn the new equipment.
- Just as worship was re-imagined for online, now it must be re-imagined again as masks still will be required and it is unclear if group singing will be safe.
- The worship/ production teams have done an amazing job for more than a year! Let's take care they don't get burned out as we begin a whole new process.
- How will Holy Communion be distributed?
- Some folks will not want to shake hands or hug; how do we make sure everyone's safety and comfort level is respected – including visitors?
- Some remain cautious about being with crowds indoors. Being sensitive to peoples' comfort and privacy, do we need to determine how many people have been vaccinated before the return? How can this be done without violating privacy and knowing some folks may decline to be vaccinated?
- New schedules must be prepared for musicians, fellowship hosts and those who serve on altar guild and as assistant ministers, eucharistic ministers, lectors, ushers and greeters.
- An improved HVAC system is in the works but it will take a few months for permits and installation.
- The return date will have to be made enough in advance to allow for:
- Promoting the return to in-person worship to the congregation and the surrounding community; planning outdoor banners and decorations
- Preparing the building and grounds

While occasional outdoor services are possible, regular outdoor worship is not an option because the city of Sunnyvale has restrictions regarding amplified sound.

Again, YOU can help the process by attending this Sunday's Zoom, filling out a survey that soon will be coming, and participate in the Interim Pastor's Listening Campaign to share your thoughts on a variety of aspects of St. Luke.

Even in this in-between time, the Holy Spirit continues to call, gather, enlighten and sanctify us as the body of the risen Christ. Thanks be to God!

Rev. Lori Eickmann, Interim Pastor and Ron Zichterman, Council President