



**Shepherd of Life Lutheran Church**  
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March 2021

**Shepherd of Life Lutheran Church**  
**Current Plans for Returning to In Person Worship**

Dear Members,

Grace to you and peace! We are so grateful to be able to share that during the very same month that our congregation marked the one year anniversary since we have all been inside for worship, that the members of our church council and staff have started putting together our initial plans for returning to In Person worship. Here are the key decisions and the reasoning behind them.

*PROJECTED START DATE: APRIL 25*

+ In an effort to maintain our commitment to protecting the health and safety of our members and worship leaders it was decided to choose a date when our key leaders have been fully vaccinated.

Pastor Mark received his first vaccination on March 6 and Pastor John received his first vaccination on March 12. This means that both of them will be fully protected by the end of April. As a part of this approach it was also decided that we should make sure to use only fully protected leaders for all of our other worship participants as well, which would include ushers, readers, etc.

*RESTRICTIONS*

+ When indoor services resume we will initially use a reservation system to make sure that we can follow social distancing guidelines. Everyone will also be required to wear masks. We are still working through how offerings will be received, how communion will be distributed and some of the ongoing questions surrounding singing. Having a little over a month yet to plan out these additional steps and the kind of activities that we can offer our children on Sunday mornings as well will be helpful.

*SCHEDULE*

In an effort to create room for social distancing we will be offering two indoor services. Because there are people who will not yet feel comfortable returning to indoor worship we are also planning to continue our outside Drive In worship (at least for a while) this is what our Sunday morning schedule will look like.

8:30 AM Indoor Worship Service  
9:45 AM Outside Drive In Service  
11:00 AM Indoor Worship Service

## SUMMARY

We will be sending out a survey shortly because your thoughts and feedback will be an important part of our decision making process (one response per household, please). As you can imagine, there are still a lot of unanswered questions along with the chance that some of these initial plans might have to be changed. For instance, if there is another surge this spring it might affect our projected start date. If the rate of vaccinations continue to accelerate we might be able to drop off the beginning restrictions relatively quickly.

This we do know. That your patience, prayers and perseverance has made it possible for the life and ministry of our church to continue safely through an incredibly challenging year and that we could not be more excited about the possibility of being able to return to the beauty of our sanctuary in just a few short weeks.

With Joy and Thanksgiving,

*Pastor John & Pastor Mark*