

Shepherd of the Mountains
Lutheran Church
Cascade, Idaho



From: Rev. Dr. Robin Dugall, Pastor

To: All the members and friends of Shepherd of the Mountains Church, Cascade, Idaho

Date: Monday, July 6th, 2020

Regarding: Continuing our Worship together in light of the COVID-19 pandemic

Friends in Jesus,

Thank you for giving your full attention to this email/letter. These directives and protocols have been developed by the leadership of our congregation for YOU and YOUR safety as we continue to work our way through the COVID-19 crisis. We ask you as lovingly as possible to abide by the directives/protocols that are articulated above.

I have been so delighted at the participation in worship as we have returned to having LIVE worship experiences in our building since May 31st. We have had roughly 15 people at our worship services...they have abided by our request to social distance as well as worn face masks as we required. Thank you all who have attended worship and demonstrated your desire to love others by sharing in our protocols and directives.

We continue to acknowledge two realities - the virus is a real thing and is spreading in Long Valley. And Jesus is still calling us to love each other preferentially...to "*prefer one another in love*" as the Apostle Paul writes in Romans. Or as Paul writes in another letter, "*put yourself aside and help others...don't be obsessed with getting your own way.*" In addition, as I promised, we are monitoring the infection rate of our county and town daily and continuing to seek the advice and counsel from civic and medical leaders.

I would like to remind you, even as we make some alterations in our health safety protocols that we will continue to encourage each other to:

LOVE and ACCEPTANCE and PATIENCE AND KINDNESS with each other.

Things are going to continue to be different for a while. These protocols and directives give us just a snapshot of how that will be true at our church facility. We all have to have this attitude about ourselves, as Paul says in Philippians 2:5-11, "the attitude of Christ...who emptied himself for our behalf..."

PS – You should be aware of our growing online presence and "attendance" during this crisis. Many of you who are reading this letter have chosen to stay home on Sundays...I completely affirm your choice and are proud of you for caring for your health with diligence during these trying times. We are averaging over 150 "participants" in either our Live Streaming Worship experiences OR the pre-recorded worship times. That's praise worthy!

Sincerely in the love of Jesus,

Robin Dugall, Pastor
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Rubrics and Directives for SOTM as of July 6th, 2020

As you consider attending worship in the following weeks:

1. ANYONE who doesn't feel well, *I encourage you* - please stay home.
2. I am personally encouraging the most "vulnerable" (those who know that they are health compromised in any way) to stay at home until they feel safe to return to large gatherings.
3. I am continuing to produce weekly online worship experiences for those who do choose to stay home for any reason. Those worship services will be announced, and "links" will be made accessible via email and our church's website. The pre-recorded worship services can be viewed at any time. In addition, we will be *Live streaming the 11am worship service at OSLC*.
4. We occasionally have "tech issues" with our LIVE STEAMING due to weather conditions, etc. IF there is a week where you cannot access the LIVE STREAM of the worship service, know that you can watch the pre-recorded version on my YouTube channel or oslcmccall.com website (Worship experiences page).
5. Hopefully, the information regarding our health and safety directives/protocols will answer questions, reduce fear and give everyone direction. Any and all questions can be addressed to me personally: rdugall@apu.edu.
6. Bring your own coffee in travel cups, Bibles, water bottles, etc. We will not have the kitchen open or treats/coffee/tea other beverages available for a few weeks.

Directive #1 - Social Distancing:

CDC guidelines – 6 feet apart in our public gatherings.

Social Distancing in our entrance/exits:

- Normal Entrance and Exit through the side door only.
- Greeters will encourage you to NOT stay in the entry way or hallway of the church building but to make your way into the sanctuary for seating. Bulletins will NOT be distributed by Greeters/Ushers but rather will be available on a table for you to pick up on their own.

Social Distancing in the sanctuary:

- We have closed off every other pew and have set up chairs in the fellowship area for people to sit. Again, family groups/couples can sit together. Ushers will encourage social distancing for those NOT of the same household. All tables have been removed from the fellowship area.
- Normal seating will resume this fall.
- You might want to come a bit early so that we don't have "congestion" at the entry way.
- People will be encouraged not to shake hands, hug, etc.

During worship:

- No Offering plates will be passed. The offering plates will be on a table at the exit from the sanctuary.
- When we celebrate Holy Communion, it will be distributed via "continuous communion practice"...that being, people will file by myself and a communion assistant (or two) who will wear gloves and masks. NO common cup will be allowed until further notice.

Directive #2 - Health Precautions:

1. Hand Sanitizers will be available at the entry way. Please use hand sanitizer upon entering the facility.
2. We have turn off the water fountain at the entry way.
3. The kitchen is closed. It will be reopened later in the summer.
4. Masks are *recommended* by not required of every participant in worship.
5. IF THERE IS A CHANGE TO THE WEARING OF FACE MASK POLICY (DUE TO ANY CITY WIDE OR COUNTY WIDE HEALTH ORDER) YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED. As of now, ONLY McCall has instituted

a mandatory wearing of masks at all public gatherings. Though we don't require masks, they are still recommended for the foreseeable future.

6. Restrooms are fully stocked with soap, paper towels, etc. Disinfecting wipes will be available in the restrooms, so that those who use the restrooms, can wipe every surface that they touch.