

**Shepherd of the Mountains
Lutheran Church
Cascade, Idaho**



Opening Rubrics and Directives for SOTM

As you consider attending worship on May 31st:

1. ANYONE 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 you feel safe to return to large gatherings.
3. I will continue 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 from OSLC in McCall if you would like to join that service live.*
4. Hopefully, the information regarding our health and safety directives/protocols will minimize questions, fear and give everyone the necessary direction. Any and all questions can be addressed to me personally: rdugall@apu.edu.
5. Bring your own coffee in travel cups, Bibles, water bottles, etc. We will not have 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.

- Music – for the first couple of weeks, music will be “performed” by Robin and/or Carol. People wearing masks will be encouraged to sing. People without masks will be encouraged NOT to sing. We will be returning to our normal music ministry in a few weeks.

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. We are *recommending* that every person wear a mask for the first couple of weeks. Extra masks will be available at the entrance to our facility. After a couple of weeks (and some intentional reevaluation of these directives/protocols) we will “relax” the recommendation regarding masks. Masks, beginning on Sunday, June 14th, will be *recommended* by not required of every participant in worship.
5. 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.