



September 22, 2020

Grace Family,

This is a brief update regarding our congregation's plans to return to in-person worship this fall.

At its meeting on Sunday, Grace's Council voted to approve recommendations from the Health and Wellness Committee, that we would resume offering in-person worship, beginning October 18. This decision was made in light of several factors, but none more important than our confidence that in-person worship can be held in a manner that is reasonably safe. We believe we achieved this necessary level of safety over the summer and will maintain it when we return to in-person worship experiences in the coming month. As before, we will only offer these services for as long as we can maintain that reasonable degree of safety, and we will rely on everyone to help us accomplish this.

Some things will be different from our last return to in-person worship. This time, we will be worshipping in the Sanctuary, with options to worship at 8:30 or 11:00 on Sunday mornings. All who attend will still be required to wear masks, maintain distance, and signup beforehand. We will not yet be singing in-person, nor will we celebrate Communion, so the services will last about 30 minutes. We will be recording the 8:30 service, using that footage for our online worship service, which will premiere at 11:00 on both Facebook and YouTube. Virtual Coffee Hour will then shift to noon. We will be sending out more detailed information in the coming weeks, so please remember that these changes begin on October 18 - your pattern does not change just yet!

Currently, we are in the process of revising our *Granting Grace to One Another* plan. You can expect an update during the week of October 5, which will give us all plenty of time. In the meantime, know that these changes are coming as a result of healthy adaptation. We have learned more about the virus, which allows us to make some helpful adjustments to our initial plan. We have learned better how to adjust our needs to the demands of this stage of the pandemic. Thanks to Craig Allen and Dr. Jeremy Mims, we are more efficient than ever in our production of worship videos. All of these factors allow us to make adjustments that, we hope, will expand the accessibility of our worship. It will take some 'getting used to' of course, but does that not describe most things we have experienced in these past six months? We can adjust our approach, but the goal remains the same: loving God, loving neighbor, sharing Grace.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Gregg Hoffman  
Senior Pastor, Grace Lutheran Church