

Re-entering Worship Task Force

Update and Recommendations

August 18, 2020

Objective: To provide for the members, staff, and visitors to Faith Lutheran a safe and meaningful re-entry to public in-person worship.

Assessment: To date, Faith Lutheran has conducted 2 parking lot worship services and 1 Columbarium Prayer Garden Amphitheater service. Attendance for the parking lot services involved 25 vehicles and 23 vehicles and 55 and 50 persons joined us for worship services in the parking lot. The outdoor service in the amphitheater attendance was 85 plus 1 car. Faith live-streamed the services on our Facebook page and received a positive response to those opportunities as well. The outdoor service does require additional volunteers to set up and take down chairs, prepare communion bags, and to serve as hosts in the amphitheater.

Addressing Concerns: While most comments from members participating in our parking lot and amphitheater services have been overwhelmingly positive, we have had to address a couple of questions along the way. Here are some of the questions and our responses:

- 1, Why is the service set for 8:30? R-There are a couple of reasons the services are being held at 8:30. First is that 8:30 is when we would normally gather for worship at the Stave chapel at GLLM. Second is that the temperatures at 8:30 are generally a bit cooler than at 10:00. Third, when we were considering the possibility of gathering on the shore at GLLM we needed to negotiate with another local church for start times and 8:30 was the better option.
2. Why are we having communion and why is it pre-packed? R-Faith has had a long tradition of weekly communion and from the onset of COVID 19, it was agreed upon that we would make a form of communion part of our worship services. The pre-packaged bags of communion cups with grape juice and a wafer are packaged beforehand to prevent any unnecessary cross-contamination of communion.
3. Why are we asked to leave our chairs at home? R- In order to maintain proper social distancing, Faith is providing chairs and presetting them in the amphitheater. These spaces along with spaces in amphitheater have been measured out to provide the appropriate social distancing.

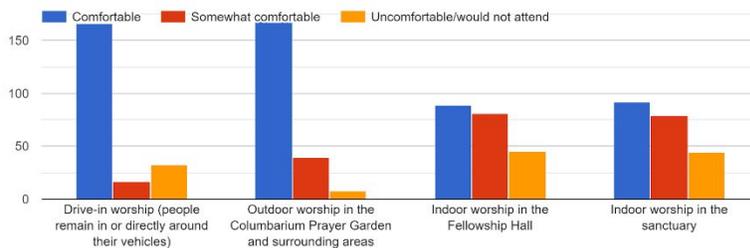
4. Can I still worship in my car? R-Yes, we want to encourage people who want to be gathered for worship but are concerned about underlying health conditions to worship from their car. Faith will provide the service over the airwaves on 1660 AM.

5. Can we visit afterward? R-You may visit afterward, but we ask that you be respectful of your neighbors by wearing your mask and visit at a proper distance.

Recommendations: The Re-entering Worship Task Force is making the following recommendations to the Faith Council concerning worship:

- Faith continues to offer an outdoor service for the foreseeable future in either the Columbarium Prayer Garden Amphitheater or in inclement weather the Parking Lot. Faith will also continue to broadcast a live stream version of the service. The Task Force recognizes that there is a certain percentage of members in the higher-risk categories that may not feel comfortable worshipping in an enclosed space but are comfortable with worshipping outdoors. See the graph below.

What is your comfort level for the following in-person worship options? (Assuming health/safety protocols are in place)



- The Task Force is currently evaluating an indoor layout of the sanctuary and fellowship space to maximize socially distanced seating. Our model show approximately 90 seats available in the sanctuary and an additional 40 to 50 seats in the social hall. We are still working on an appropriate plan for indoor worship that will make the best use of our space and staff time. This may include 1 service in the sanctuary that will be simulcasted in the fellowship hall or multiple services offered at various times during the week.
- The Task Force plans to survey the congregation about an abbreviated Feast Service and their participation. As of this date, we recommend that we place the Feast Service in a holding pattern until more information is gathered.

- Concerning Funerals, the Task Force recommends that pastoral discretion is used to guide decisions on the type of service to be offered based upon the needs of the family and the potential size of the gathering. The pastors in consultation with the property manager will work to determine whether the service be held outdoors, indoors, or graveside based on the particular situation.
- Concerning Baptisms, the Task Force recommends that baptisms be conducted as part of our outdoor worship services, but understands that there may be extenuating circumstances that would require a private baptism. When a private baptism is requested, the gathering will be held to a minimal number and participants will be asked to wear a mask.
- Concerning communication, we recommend that the Faith Staff and Council continue to provide clear leadership in communicating these recommendations to the congregation. It is important to realize that individuals may have questions and concerns about these recommendations and they should be directed to a pastor or member of the Task Force to address their concerns.

These recommendations are made with the assumption that the spread and/or prevention of the spread of the virus may have an impact on these recommendations moving forward. As stated in the stage one recommendation, flexibility in our worship life is important due to the unpredictable nature of the novel coronavirus.