



# St. Mark Lutheran CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

Dear St. Mark Lutheran Family and Friends,

We Are Resuming In-Sanctuary Worship on May 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

Your Pastor and the Board of Elders have decided on the following guidelines to promote the health and safety of those returning to the sanctuary. This will be in addition to our continued online services. Those who wish to continue sheltering in place on Sunday mornings and worship online will be able to do so. It is our prayer that you will understand that we have tried to weigh all the issues that have arisen during this pandemic. While this is always true, at a time like this, Christian Love, Selflessness and Charity need to be the norm.

1. While this may be obvious, if you have a fever, a cough, difficulty breathing, we ask that you stay home. If you are suffering from allergies (sneezing a lot), we ask that you remain home.
2. The CDC and State of Oklahoma are still recommending social distancing, so every other row will be closed in the sanctuary, and there will be three empty seats in between each family.
3. As per the CDC, we will recommend (not require) that folks who come to church wear masks. We will attempt to have masks available for those who cannot find one. If you choose not to, please maintain your social distancing.
4. **10:00 a.m. Service** We will continue to have only one service. The CDC and other authorities are telling us if we have more than one service, the facility must be disinfected between services. That is not an option for us at this time, though there is discussion about purchasing the equipment to do that.  
**Limited Sanctuary Seating** We will be asking you to phone (340-0192) or e-mail ([office@stmarkedmond.org](mailto:office@stmarkedmond.org), [pastor@stmarkedmond.org](mailto:pastor@stmarkedmond.org)) the church and let us know if you are planning to worship in the building. The deadline each week will be noon the Thursday before. Since we will only have half of our seating available, with many seats left empty for spacing, we will need to know attendance ahead of time. *We will continue our web broadcasts for those who want to remain sheltering in place.*  
**Sunday School and Bible Classes** will continue to be done online.  
**Communion** will still be one Sunday a month. We are planning on communion in the sanctuary with the elders bringing you the elements. They will be masked and gloved. Full sanitation measures will continue in its preparation. *Communion in the parking lot will also be done for those watching at home on those Sundays.* In order for us to prepare adequately, please let us know in advance if you plan to participate in curbside communion.

5. We will be propping the doors open into the building and sanctuary so you will not have to touch them. Bulletins will not be printed and handed out. We encourage you to access the weekly bulletin on your phone, or print the bulletin at home and bring it with you to church. Acolyte and reader duties will be covered by the Pastor. *\*Offering plates will not be passed. You will find one at the back of the sanctuary, and you may place your offerings there when entering or exiting the sanctuary.*
6. While we know that you will want to reunite and engage with your brothers and sisters in Christ, due to social distancing and such, we ask that it happen in the parking lot and with safe distancing. I hope you understand why this needs to be.

All of the above steps are being taken to minimize your risk of exposure to this virus. We are doing everything we reasonably can to achieve that. Obviously, we cannot guarantee this. Again, for those who are not comfortable with returning to church, we will be maintaining our live online services. These measures are all subject to change as the pandemic continues, and you all will be notified as needed.

God Bless,

Pastor Erler

## Growing God's Family

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