



Reformation Lutheran Church
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Reverend Heidi Link

Date: 8/30/2020

Dear Siblings in Christ,

We, the church council of Reformation Lutheran Church, have a few important announcements to share with you. The first announcement pertains to returning to indoor worship. We have decided to return to indoor worship starting on September 13, 2020 with two worship services at 8:30 AM and 10:00 AM. We will continue to stream the 10:00 AM service for those of you who are not ready to return to indoor worship and for the on-line following we have gathered outside of our local community here in Absecon/Galloway. While we will not be taking temperatures at the door, if you are exhibiting any symptoms of illness, self-quarantining, or have recently traveled out of state, we ask you to refrain from coming to the indoor worship services. The guidelines for returning to worship are as follows:

1. The only entrance we will use is the one from the parking lot in the back.
2. Masks and physical distancing will be in place throughout the worship services. Every other pew will be blocked off in order to maintain the physical distancing requirement so you may not be able to sit where you usually did before, we ask that you respect the established boundaries for the benefit of all attending worship. Family units may sit together without physically distancing themselves from one another, all others must maintain 6 feet between you and the other person in your pew.
3. A touchless hand sanitizer will be placed just inside the door in the narthex for you to use as you enter for worship.
4. After entering the building and using the hand sanitizer, a greeter will hand you a bulletin and then you will pick up a single use communion pod. We will not be coming forward to receive communion, everyone will stay seated and take communion at the same time after the words of institution.

5. There will be no sharing of the peace or fellowship between services or after the last service.
6. We will not be passing an offering plate during the services, offerings may be placed in the plate located in the back of the sanctuary before or after service.
7. Our music director, Brian Conover, will be the only person playing and singing during the service. We have placed a sheet of plexiglass between him and the congregation for added protection. We ask you to refrain from singing in order to reduce droplet and aerosol transmissions.
8. Our Joyful Noise collection will take place on the last Sunday of the month as usual. The offering cans will be located near the offering plate in the back of the sanctuary.
9. Sunday School will resume during the second service starting on Sunday September 20, 2020. Children and youth will be required to wear masks. Parents or guardians will escort their child directly to the Sunday School class room. They will remain in class until communion. When it is time for communion, they will return and be seated with their family/guardian for communion and will remain with you until the end of service. We are making this change so the Sunday School teachers have enough time with the children. There will be no distribution of snack during Sunday School. Miss Nina will be mailing out Sunday School registration forms soon.
10. The sanctuary and restrooms will be disinfected with a fogger between the two services and again after the second service.

The second announcement pertains to our annual Spaghetti Dinner which the council has decided will still take place but will be done as Take Out only. It is scheduled for Sunday October 4, 2020 with pick up hours between 3 pm and 6 pm. More information to follow.

The third and final announcement pertains to my taking on a vice-pastor role with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Little Egg Harbor starting September 1, 2020. I will still continue with all of my duties and responsibilities as your called pastor here at Reformation.

It has been a long couple of months with the pandemic and until a vaccine is available, the way we are called to be church will continue to be different than what we are all used to. In this we fix our eyes on our triune God for guidance,

strength, perseverance, peace of mind and most of all love and hope. Please continue to stay safe and healthy as we go about our lives during the pandemic. Pray for one another and help those in need when and where you can. God's love, peace and blessing be with you all.

Be ... a blessing

Pastor Heidi and Council President Brian Conover

On behalf of the Church Council.