



Staying Well and Safe at Our Redeemer

March 13, 2020

Dear Our Redeemer family,

In light of the recent concerns about public health amid the outbreak of COVID-19 virus in Minnesota, our leadership is paying close attention to what is happening and are immediately taking appropriate steps--and will continue to do so throughout the weeks ahead. Here are some changes and initial guidelines we are taking at Our Redeemer:

- We are planning to hold our onsite worship services on Sundays and Wednesdays, as well as our Loaves & Fishes meals, as of this date. The following events are being canceled: The O.W.L.S tour of Len Busch Roses on March 19 and the Young Adult Collab event on March 26.
- We are increasing the frequency and intensity of cleaning and sanitizing the public spaces of the church. Luckily, before the recent shortage of certain supplies, we were able to purchase three large bottles of disinfectant cleanser and three large containers of hand sanitizer—and two cases of toilet paper!
- We will not pass the offering plate during worship, but you may place your donations in the plates on the table near the doors as you enter or exit the Sanctuary. Or, you can make online deductions (either one-time or recurring) through our website or by clicking [HERE](#).
- For Communion, we will begin serving at stations next to the altar instead of kneeling at the altar railings. Communion is served with individual disposable cups for wine or grape juice. The Communion servers will use hand sanitizer. If you do not feel comfortable taking Communion at this time, please do not feel obligated to come forward.
- We are removing the "Sharing of the Peace" part of our worship services. (See below for suggestions on greeting others in exchange of handshaking.)
- We often like to gather during worship in pews sitting closely next to others, but we want to encourage people to consider creating space between you and your neighbor as a way to be respectful of each other's individual concerns. Please feel welcome to seat yourselves spaciouly among the various sections of our pews.

Here some precautions we encourage all of you to consider regarding your involvement with church:

- Please wash your hands frequently! Also, we have hand sanitizer available in multiple areas: Sanctuary, Narthex (on the Welcome Desk), and in the Fellowship Hall.
- Please do not attend worship (or an Our Redeemer event) if you have recently traveled in an area within or outside of the United States with confirmed cases of COVID-19.
- Please do not attend worship (or an Our Redeemer event) if you are sick or starting to display signs of getting sick.
- Please refrain from shaking hands. A wave, a smile, a head nod, a bow, or any other type of friendly greeting is appropriate and encouraged.

Please know that the health and safety of our members and visitors are our top priority. As we expect this situation will continue to grow, we will act with the information we receive from Minnesota's health, government, and ELCA authorities, and make any necessary adjustments. Those might include suspending onsite worship and instead inviting people to an online format, canceling all meetings at the church, and/or making adjustments to our Wednesday meals. We assure you that we will keep you posted through all possible communications such as emails, Facebook and our website. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the church office at 651-772-2445 or at office@orlcmn.org.

In the meantime, we ask that you pray for those affected by this virus – its effects are concerning and spreading wide. We pray that this can open our hearts to the wider needs of those around us, both near and across the world.

Blessings,

Our Redeemer Staff and Board