

Dear Zion family,

July 26, 2020

We have missed gathering together for worship! No doubt that is as true for you as it is for me. The Zion leadership and I have been working to develop a plan to return to worshipping in our church building while taking effort to gather as safely as we can during this time. Right now we are called in service and love to all of our neighbors by taking care to minimize the risk of spreading the coronavirus, especially to those who are most vulnerable. In light of that, our return to worship in our building will take on several changes and adaptations for the time being. We expect worship to look like this for some time to come, but we are grateful that we can offer this way of worshipping and being church together for now.

### **Beginning with Sunday, August 16, here's what worship will look like:**

**We will have one service in the sanctuary at 8:30 a.m.** (with the live radio broadcast at that time)



**Limited attendance** – We will reduce the number of people who can worship indoors to about 30% of our seating capacity while also allowing room to space household groups by a minimum of 6 feet. That means our limit is approximately 70 people or 17 household groups (anyone who lives in the same house can sit together), dependent on the spacing needs between households.



**Parking lot worship** – If you are not yet comfortable gathering in the building but would still like to listen to worship while on the Zion campus, you are invited to park in the parking lot and listen to the 8:30 service on KSDN in your car. On Sundays when we offer Communion, Pastor Erin can bring Communion out to the parking lot after the service has ended for anyone who would like to take Communion but does not want to come into the building.



**Worship reservations** – In order to keep our worship capacity at the level where we can maintain safe spacing, we ask you to sign up to attend Sunday worship. Please call the church office at 225-6755 by **Friday at noon before the Sunday you plan to attend.**



**Physical distancing** – Please respect six feet of distancing throughout the church, especially when entering and exiting the building. For those wanting to visit, please do so outside while maintaining safe distancing from other families. Greet one another with a wave rather than a hug or a handshake.



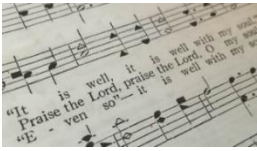
**Face masks and hand sanitizer** – All who come into the church building (except for children under the age of 2) will be required to wear a face mask that covers both nose and mouth. If you forget to bring one, a limited number of disposable masks will be available. Please also clean your hands at the hand sanitizing station available in the narthex.



**Ushers** – When you come into the church, ushers will seat each household group beginning with the front rows and working toward the back. After worship has ended, ushers will dismiss from the back to the front and you are asked to exit the building as soon as you are ushered from the sanctuary. **Ushers will not hand out bulletins**, so we will have everything needed to follow along with worship on our screens. You can also print worship bulletins and children's bulletins at home and bring them with you or access them during the service with a mobile device.



**Pastors and musicians** – All worship leaders will remain either up front in the chancel or in the balcony where they can lead worship safely distanced from congregants (pastor will not be masked in order to be heard clearly). There will be no hand shaking / greeting before or after worship in the narthex.



**No congregational singing and minimum congregational speaking** – Music is a vital part of our worship services, but we now know that congregational singing carries a significant risk for transmitting the coronavirus. We cannot safely sing together at this time. We invite you instead to listen as our musicians offer hymns and songs of praise.



**Communion** – Communion will be offered on the first and third Sundays of the month. Those who wish to take Communion will be able to pick up prepackaged wafer and grape juice as you come into the sanctuary. We will take Communion while remaining in the pews. There will also be an opportunity to take Communion twice a month in small groups on Wednesday evenings.



**Offering** – We will not have any physical contact during the peace or pass offering plates, but there will be offering baskets available as you enter the sanctuary. Please leave your contribution in one of these baskets on your way into worship. You can also donate online or mail in your offering.



**Nursery** – The nursery will **not** be available during this time of modified worship gatherings. We will also not have children's bulletins (but you can print from home from our website) or busy bags available.



**Fellowship Hour** – We will not have in-person fellowship on Sunday mornings at this time and no food or beverages are currently served in the church at any time during the week.



**Cleaning** – Disinfecting procedures will be done by our building maintenance person on Mondays. The sanctuary, narthex, bathrooms, and all other high-touch areas will be thoroughly disinfected.



**If unwell** – Please stay home if you are not feeling well or if you have been exposed to a COVID-19 situation or person in the last 14 days. A full list of symptoms can be found at the CDC's website here: [bit.ly/covid19symptoms2020](https://bit.ly/covid19symptoms2020)



**Online only** – We will return to radio/online only worship for a minimum of two weeks if there is a positive COVID-19 case among those who have attended worship in the building.

So that the sanctuary may be a safe place for all, if you are unwilling to worship with these restrictions, please continue to worship online or with our radio broadcast. Also, if you are not yet comfortable coming to worship in the building, please do what is best for you and your household. Our first priority is to keep you safe and Zion will still be here when you are ready to come back!



**10:45 service online:** We will continue to offer an online video worship service on Facebook and our YouTube channel for any who prefer to or need to stay home for worship. The 8:30 service will be video recorded and available on Facebook and YouTube to watch by 10:45 each Sunday morning (and available anytime after that as well) with some changes to the music to allow us to provide a blended or contemporary service each week.



### **WEDNESDAY EVENING COMMUNION SERVICES**

We will offer Communion services a couple of times each month on **Wednesday evenings from 5:00-7:00 beginning with August 12 and August 26.** Future dates are TBD.

Here's how it will work:

- Please enter through the east main doors (the doors on the north side will be locked from the outside). If there appears to be a line, wait outside appropriately distanced from others.
- A greeter will welcome you in (individual or family group) and ask you to put a face mask on. (Bring your own or one will be provided at the door.) Masks can stay on except for taking Communion.
- We will allow a couple households at a time into the sanctuary. You can pick up prepackaged elements at the back of the sanctuary and can sit in the front pews or stand if you're more comfortable doing that. We'll share in a brief prayer of confession, share the Lord's Supper, and share in a blessing.
- Depart out of the sanctuary through the side door on the north side of the sanctuary and depart the building out of the northeast exit door (next to the kitchen) to make way for the next group. It will take about 5 minutes per group.
- Anyone who has felt under the weather or is not wanting to take the risk of coming into the building should not feel compelled to come. It's OK to continue to feast on the Word!

God's grace and peace to you as we continue caring for one another and our neighbors while also hearing and receiving the great promises of God. For it is Christ who has the final word over each one of us, and it is indeed a word of grace and mercy and love!

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." John 13:34-35

In Christ,  
Pastor Erin