

March 17, 2021

Friends and family of St. Mark,



It has been a year of coming together for worship online and staying apart because we care about the health and safety of one another. There are so many things we miss about being together in one place - the energy of a mass of people together in one room. And, at the same time, we have made fantastic discoveries about our faith and community while worshipping apart.

We wish to inform you that we are now moving into phase 3 of our Covid Preparedness plan. (Insert cheer here! 😊)

What does this mean?

Worship

- Worship will be held online and in-person with proper mask wearing and social distancing measures implemented per local guidance, beginning with 25% (70 people) capacity.
- Multiple services will be offered to spread out participation. Service times will be 8:30am and 10:45am.
- Ushers will guide you to your assigned seats and dismiss you following the service.
- Communion will be offered in alignment with public health guidance: Communion liturgy will be spoken in worship, and the communion elements will be offered to you as you exit the sanctuary for you to take home. (Remember- the words are sufficient enough.)
- Music will be offered in worship and will be provided by a few singers. Congregational singing is not permitted at this time.
- We will use no-touch alternatives for passing the peace, collecting offering, and liturgical resources. Single use bulletins will be provided with all worship materials.
- No fellowship/social hour will be scheduled during this phase. People are required to leave the building after the service. (If you wish to casually gather in the parking lot, no one will be there to stop you.)
- High risk individuals, whether staff, volunteers, or program participants, are encouraged to evaluate their physical participation level before attending.

Reservations

- Online reservations will be required for Sunday morning worship.
- A link will be provided on our website (www.Stmarkcp.org).
- The reservation site will go live the Wednesday before Sunday Worship at noon.
- First-come-first serve. (We hope that two services will be able to meet the needs for all who wish to attend.)
- When you go to sign-up online, there will be a list of Terms and Conditions that you agree to when you make your reservation.

- If you wish to call church, we would be happy to help sign you and your family up over the phone.
- If you need to cancel your reservation- please do so through the link provided (remove yourself from the list).
- There will be an option to sign up for a wait list if the services are full.

What happens to our online services?

- We will no longer be gathering at 10am online for worship.
- We are still waiting for the ability to livestream our services...
- Until we are able to livestream, our 8:30 service will be recorded and uploaded to our YouTube page by noon each Sunday. You can find this link on our website and Facebook page.

Holy Week and Easter

- We will be open for in person worship starting April 1st.
- April 1st is Maundy Thursday – worship will begin at 7pm.
- April 2nd is Good Friday – worship will begin at 7pm. (In person worship will now replace the “station of the cross” opportunity in the parking lot.)
- Reservations will open for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday on Monday March 29th at noon.
- Easter Sunday is April 4th (Reservations will open Wednesday March 31st at noon)
 - 6:45am Parking lot sunrise service (No reservations needed)
 - 8:30 and 10:45 worship (in the sanctuary- reservations required)

***** PLEASE BE AWARE*****

As exciting as it is to be moving forward to phase 3, we must be mindful that there are no guarantees that we won't have to consider returning to phase 2 or phase 1. No one WANTS that... but we ask for your continued patience, understanding and grace.

Activities on-site

- St. Mark staff will begin implementing limited office hours, with attention to cleaning.
- St. Mark and Community groups up to 15 people, may meet in person, abiding with social distance guidelines and wearing masks.. Approval is required. See the church website for more details on how to reserve your room.

We look forward to taking these next steps with you. If you have any questions, please contact anyone on the council, the covid team or the office.

Make Good Choices,

St. Mark Council and Covid Response Team