

November 21, 2020

Dear Redeemer Family and Friends,

The Strategic Plan that we rolled out in January cast a vision that through the ministry of Redeemer, all of the world would see Jesus. Since that time, the COVID-19 pandemic has radically changed our lives and our world. However, it has not changed our call to witness to the love, grace, and justice of our Lord.

Since the beginning of this pandemic, our church leadership has carefully made decisions with two priorities in mind:

- The Church never closes as the mission of Jesus Christ never stops.
- The health and safety of our community and the world around us are of the highest importance.

As we continue to take care of one another by remaining physically separated, many among us are wondering how we will resume worship and other gatherings while the pandemic continues? Following our synod's recommendation, we have implemented a phased strategy to gather together again safely. Decisions to move to the next phase (or back to a previous phase) will be made by Council based on the best medical information available and as recommended by our Redeemer COVID Task Force. A detailed description of this strategy is contained in the document: Building and Worship Protocols for Lutheran Church of the Redeemer which was updated and adopted by the Church Council on November 17, 2020. Please call or email us with any questions.

While the recent announcement of possible vaccines with remarkable effectiveness in dealing with COVID-19 is the most encouraging news we've received in a long time, the scientific benchmarks do not change. We will be encouraging everyone to get the vaccine when it is available so that the numbers of cases and level of hospitalizations in our community will decrease, allowing us to gather again in phases according to the protocols. In the meantime, we continue to care for our neighbors by maintaining social distancing, ensuring proper hygiene and wearing a face covering in public.

Our world may have changed, but our mission has not. We give thanks to our pastors, staff, leaders, and people for the daily work you accomplish in living your faith, extending forgiveness and grace to those around you, and witnessing to our ultimate hope in the abiding presence and love of our God.

In His Service,

Janet Preston
President, Congregation Council

Rev. Mark H. Larson
Senior Pastor