

Elder Statement– May 14, 2020

Shared May 14, 2020

Lord willing, we will resume our Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study & Prayer Meeting on May 20, 2020 and Sunday 4 PM and 5 PM services on May 24 at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church. The elders of Christ Fellowship Bible Church desire to offer you a safe environment, in which we can practice the Biblical principle of gathering together to worship our Lord.

The following protocols have been adopted to honor the spirit of the new Public Health standards in St. Louis County effective May 18, 2020 and to respect the gracious provisions of our host church.

What can I expect? Will this be a normal Wednesday/Sunday?

This will not be a normal Wednesday/Sunday in the sense that normal was how we last met together. Here is what you can expect ...

Seating in Sanctuary

Every other pew will be partitioned off and those non-family members who share a pew will sit 6 feet apart. We are asking family units to sit together.

There will be 9 pews open on the right side of the Sanctuary (facing the pulpit) and 6 pews open on the left side. In addition, there will be one pew open in the Cry Room at the rear of the Sanctuary and one pew open in the Narthex for parents needing some private time with their young ones.

The new St. Louis County standards specify, among other things, that physical distancing is expected, but families may sit together.

In addition, church gatherings are permitted in buildings provided the attendance is limited to 25% of the legal occupancy (eg “fire code” occupancy). We have been advised that the legal occupancy in the Sanctuary is 265. Consequently, we will be able to seat 66 persons in the Sanctuary.

The pews on the right side are approximately 15 feet in length and the pews on the left side are approximately 10 feet in length. In order to wisely utilize the available seating capacity in the Sanctuary, we would ask families of 4 to 6 to sit in the pews on the left side, thereby leaving seating for individuals and families of 3 or so to find seating on the right side while still adhering to the physical distancing standard of six feet. Larger families (7 or larger) may occupy a pew on the right side.

By God’s providence, we should be able to seat our usual CFBC attendance in this way. However, we will likely lack capacity for additional visitors. We would respectfully ask that you defer inviting additional guests for the time being, until the standards are further relaxed, so we can safely seat our congregation. Please bear in mind that live streaming will be continued for those unable to join us at the Mount Calvary location.

Physical distancing in the lower level will also be practiced there as well, with non-family members sitting six feet apart.

Services

We will resume our Sunday 4 PM Family Bible Hour and 5 PM Worship Service. However, other meetings (eg Catechism Class etc) will continue to be deferred to a later date. Parents are encouraged to continue Catechism training in their homes.

In addition, we will resume our Wednesday 7 PM Bible study and prayer meeting.

All services will be in the Sanctuary. We plan to offer limited (10 or so persons) overflow seating in the lower level.

Streaming

The sermon will continue to be streamed in the same manner. Our members who choose to stay home should notice minimal difference. Pastor Geoff will continue to preach from the Sanctuary, and those in the lower level will watch the live stream projected on a screen.

Childcare

Following the recommendation of our health officials, we will not be offering any childcare. All families will sit in the auditorium in units. Parents should feel free to bring activities and quiet toys to help entertain children as needed. As a church, we will be patient and gracious to those with young children and welcome them into the worship time with joy.

Bulletin

E-bulletins will continue to be sent out on Fridays.

There will be a limited number of paper bulletins available for those who need them.

Offering

We will continue to use the offering box in the rear of the Sanctuary. Additionally, you may mail offerings or use electronic deposit.

What about health and safety?

Face masks

Face masks are welcome but not mandatory. If you would like to wear one, you are welcome to do so.

Bathrooms

The bathrooms will be available for use, however capacity will be limited to accommodate physical distancing. The bathroom will be periodically wiped down with an approved cleaner while the service is taking place.

Physical Distancing

We will practice physical distancing at all times. We ask that our members refrain from hugging and shaking hands.

Hand Sanitizer

Hand sanitizer will be available at every entrance.

Entrances

All entrance doors will be propped open during arrival and exit times. During the service, the entrances will be closed and locked as is our normal protocol.

Food and Drinks

The church will not be providing any type of food or coffee. The church's water fountains will be unavailable for use.

Gathering in the Lobby

Upon arrival, we ask that attendees proceed directly to their seats and fellowship from their seats.

Please do not gather in groups and remain in the lobby. However, after the service you may gather in the parking lot provided distancing standards are observed.

The elders of Christ Fellowship Bible Church desire to offer you a safe environment in which we can practice the Biblical principle of gathering together to worship our Lord. If you are not feeling well or remain uncomfortable with returning to a public venue, please stay home and continue to worship with us online.

The Elders of Christ Fellowship Bible Church