

Sunday Worship Guidelines

We will continue to livestream our 9am worship service on Facebook and YouTube. Archived video will be available on at www.trinitylutheranchurchsimi.com after the services conclude on our various platforms. We will be allowing in-person worship, inside the sanctuary, beginning Sunday, 25 October 2020, for the 9am live-streamed service. A *modified* liturgical service at 10:30am will begin soon thereafter. We will use the Ventura County color-coded Tier system as our guide going forward for percentages and numbers of congregants allowed to attend.

If you're not yet comfortable being indoors or with a large group, we understand! Please choose the worship experience that works best for you and your family.

If you would like to attend in-person worship, you must make a reservation for the service to ensure that we have enough space to maintain proper physical distance in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Reservations on the *Sign-Up Genius* online platform will open every Monday morning as long as RSVPs are required. Those without Internet access will be able to call the Church Office at 805-526-2429 to register.

Upon the advice of the California Department of Public Health and the CDC, those who are at higher risk for severe illness (age 65 and older, or with underlying medical conditions such as severe asthma, chronic lung disease, serious heart conditions, diabetes, kidney disease, liver disease, immunocompromised) are strongly encouraged to *stay home* and not participate in any group gatherings involving people outside of their immediate household. We encourage you to continue to participate in online worship during this time.

Additionally, we ask that you complete a self-screening checklist before arriving. If you have had any COVID symptoms that you cannot attribute to another health condition, you must stay home and should seek medical advice. These symptoms include fever (100.4F or higher) or feeling feverish, chills, a new cough, shortness of breath, a new sore throat, new muscle aches, a new headache or a new loss of smell or taste. Please worship online until you are well.

If you have been in close contact with someone with a confirmed case of COVID in the last 14 days or is currently waiting for COVID test results, or if you have returned from abroad in the last 14 days, please stay home and worship online until your self-quarantine period is complete.

If you RSVP for worship and then decide not to attend for any reason, please delete your sign-up through *Sign-Up Genius*, or let us know so that your seats can be released to someone else. Email trinity@tlcsimi.com if you require assistance.

What will worship in the Sanctuary be like?

- Plan to arrive 10-20 minutes early to give everyone a chance to check in. Only the main Sanctuary doors will be unlocked, and they will not be opened for check-in until all volunteers are in place.
- Face coverings must be worn inside the building at all times, per state order.
- As you arrive at the Sanctuary doors, volunteers will greet you and take your temperature (nothing over 99.4°); touch-free. Please wait patiently with a 6' distance between people.
- Volunteers will have a list of those who have registered for worship and escort one household group at a time to a pew/pew-chair/chair in the Sanctuary. Any roped off areas are to assist in maintaining physical distance requirements. Please cooperate as they seat family groups, even if you don't end up in your "usual" location.
- All attendees must follow the directions of volunteers and staff to maintain at least 6 feet of distance from those who do not live in the same household while in the sanctuary.
- Worship services will be touch-free. Bibles, Hymnals, offering envelopes, pencils, etc., will not be provided. Bulletins will be pre-set at the pews and personally disposed of.
- Hand sanitizer stations are located throughout the building and should be utilized often!
- We will have limited singing from the congregation. However, lyrics and liturgy will be projected on the television monitors/screens, and recordings will be played.
- Some elements of worship will be pre-recorded. We will look for ways to make worship special even in the complexity of these times.
- There will be no *Passing of the Peace*.
- We will celebrate Holy Communion together every other week, as normal; though it will occur at the beginning of the service. We will also do it in the same way we have done this summer with a *drive-through* option for those members not worshipping indoors. Pre-packaged communion cups will be placed on the pews prior to the worship service. Congregants will be instructed when and how to open them at the appropriate time.
- You may leave the Sanctuary at any time to use the restrooms. Please be sure to maintain physical distance from others outside of the Sanctuary also. Only one person is allowed in each restroom at a time.
- At the end of the service, volunteers will dismiss those in attendance in an orderly fashion to maintain proper distancing *through the Parish Hall*. Please head directly outside through the Parish Hall door. Please do not stop to visit in any Gathering Area.
- An Offering box will be located at the Parish Hall EXIT door rather than passed during the service. A trash receptacle will also be there for each person to dispose of their own waste.

We are excited to take a step forward carefully to offer worship in our Sanctuary again! We want to do so safely to protect people, especially those who are the most vulnerable. We realize that our modified worship service may not be everything that people have come to expect, but it is an option for those who have longed to come back. We know that people will make decisions that are best for themselves for their family or for their health, so we will continue to offer online, in-person and other opportunities that allow us to worship God and be filled up in our spirit.

Thank you for your patience as we take the next best step forward together!

In Him,

Pastor Barker