

Hello Libertyville Church family!

We have all been anxious to gather together for worship once again. And starting Aug. 23, we hope to do just that!

*A reminder that under our CALM planning, as of July 15<sup>th</sup> the LCC facility has been deep cleaned, and we are welcoming groups (initially under 25 in July, and then up to 50 in August) to use the LCC facility with all recommended precautions. Whenever possible, we suggest meeting outside on the hill. We are placing posters / safety materials in the narthex as a reminder and have also arranged for ongoing facility cleaning. Obviously we are closely monitoring all Illinois and local guidance for updates.*

With Small Groups, Bible Studies, and church gatherings now beginning to gather in person, we have been together for fellowship and learning, and soon hope to be gathered for worship, too. In August, our new media equipment should be installed and tested, and our transition from the produced, pre-recorded service to an actual livestream will be complete. We will then be ready to safely welcome each other back to worship. As with everything this year, worship will not look like what we experienced last winter. But with changes in place, we will be able to come together safely and lovingly in worship.

So, what will the in-person worship experience look like? It will begin with a sign-up form you'll have to return to the office in advance to reserve seating for you or your family. Since we can only have 50 in the building (under Illinois' Phase 4 guidelines), seating will be limited. Each week, preference will be given to those who have not yet joined us for worship so that all who desire will receive the gift of gathering. Each week we will email (or call) the 50 attendees so they know we have space for them. No one will be admitted without prior consent from the church office. And, of course, if you are feeling sick on a Sunday when you have a reservation, we ask that you please stay home.

On the day of worship, out of love and care for one another, we will all be masked from the time we leave our cars until we return to them after the service. Greeters will meet you at the front doors of the church (the side door will remain locked) with open doors, sanitizer, and masks for those who forgot their own. Our offices, basement, and nursery will be closed to the public, but our upstairs bathroom will be available. All families will be responsible for keeping their children within reach at all times since there will be no childcare of any sort, and we will work hard to have worship elements that incorporate all ages into our worship experience.

Ushers will show you to your seats, with families spaced 6' apart from one another. You'll find your worship order already on your seats, and you may greet those around you from your seating area. During worship, we encourage you to enjoy the music and readings quietly since public singing in enclosed spaces may increase the risk of the spread of COVID. Our musicians will sing from the front, and we are all encouraged to meditate on the words but not to sing along. Our leaders will lead, read, and preach from the pulpit with masks off while they are speaking, but with masks on when they are not. While there will be an offering basket placed in the narthex each week, we ask that whenever possible, giving to church be directed online.

After worship, our ushers will dismiss us by rows to exit the building, and once outside, we may greet one another with masks and proper social distancing. We ask that you don't congregate inside the building since we don't have the facility for proper social distancing even with these limited numbers.

Consistent with our commitment under the CALM plan, Worship will continue to be streamed for the foreseeable future. As an alternative to gathering at our church building for worship, we also encourage you to consider, as you are comfortable, gathering with others in your area to each to enjoy the livestream Worship together. Should you desire to find others to be with in this way, please contact the Church office as we'd love to help you form community in this way. As with any gathering in a private home, the parties involved are then responsible for local protections, and can decide together if they will wear masks, sing, or share in responses. This allows you to enjoy being the Church in your home but not alone. This is also an excellent evangelistic tool to invite our neighbors - for that is the mission of the Church, and what we are gathered for.

We join you in the disappointment that this is not the worship experience to which we've become accustomed and to which we hope to return in the future. Your Worship Committee and Leadership Team created and reviewed these plans to comply with current guidance at this stage of the pandemic.

**Let us remember that the purpose of worship is not our enjoyment or comfort, but the opportunity to give glory to God, to reconnect with Him, and to be encouraged to continue our mission of growing disciples, growing the church, and growing the kingdom of God. We pray that this will accomplish those things while keeping us all safe to minister throughout the week.**