



Grace Bible Chapel

LOVING GOD - LOVING PEOPLE

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COVID-19 Preparedness Plan

We strongly urge all "at risk" staff, volunteers, and attendees who are members of vulnerable populations to stay home and participate in services via the live stream. In order to self-identify your at-risk status please see the following: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>

Services

In order to accommodate the maximum attendance allowed as well as maintain a clean environment during this pandemic, there will be no children's ministries or childcare for now. In addition we will be switching to two services with a time for cleaning in between services. Both services will contain the same program and will occur at the following times:

First Service:

8:15-9:30am

Cleaning Crew:

9:45-10:15am

Second Service:

10:30-11:45am

In accordance with the guidance of governing authorities, the following guidelines apply to all church gatherings at Grace that are classified according to the following planned services: "worship, rituals, prayer meetings, scripture studies." All other gatherings at Grace must remain below 10 people and are to maintain social distancing measures.

Social Behavior

During our gatherings we encourage attendees to adhere to the following social behaviors:

- **social distancing (specifically, staying 6 feet away from others not in your immediate family)**
- **frequently washing hands or use alcohol-based (at least 60% alcohol) hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available**
- **wearing cloth face coverings**
- **avoiding touching eyes, nose, and mouth**
- **covering your coughs and sneezes with a sleeve or tissue**

Sanitation

To adhere to the instructions given to places of worship by the State of MN upon reopening, we will be implementing the following additional practices until further notice. (See https://mn.gov/deed/assets/worship-guidance-ACC_tcm1045-433301.pdf for more information regarding these practices.)

- To provide a virus free gathering: all attendees and volunteers will be asked about their health and whether they've been around anyone sick. Those who are sick or have been around anyone sick will be asked to enjoy the livestream from home. Please note the state guidelines:
 - ◇ “Facilities and organizations should ask visitors and participants to review a screening survey addressing close contacts with confirmed cases and quarantined cases, and recent out of continent travel. The questions should be the same as those completed by staff, and visitors and participants should be advised to stay home if they have had a significant exposure. MDH’s Visitor and Employee Health Screening Checklist: (www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facilityhlthscreen.pdf)”
- Only 100 persons will be allowed in the sanctuary for each service. An overflow room (rm. 101) will be available with a live feed and hosts. Once the sanctuary is full, we will direct people to this room through a separate entrance, the exterior doors by the nursery. There will be a separate bathroom available for those in the overflow.
- Seating will be sectioned off to ensure 6ft distance between households and different pews/chairs will be used during the second service than were used during first service. Pews/chairs will also be disinfected between services. Most items have also been removed from the pews including bibles and hymnals to decrease cross-contamination.
- To ensure a controlled gathering: All areas of the church will be off-limits except the following: lobby, sanctuary, and main restrooms (though those in overflow in room 101 will use the restrooms adjacent to that room instead of the main restrooms).
- To ensure a clean gathering space: all open areas of the church will be cleaned prior to Sunday morning as well as in between services with a CDC certified disinfectant.
- Sunday morning volunteers (such as the cleaning crew, ushers, greeters, etc.) will be required to wear a mask and wash their hands before serving.
- In regard to congregational singing, consider these state recommendations: ☐

“Singing is a higher-risk activity as it more forcefully expels respiratory droplets than speaking. And the act of singing may contribute to transmission of COVID-19, possibly through emission of aerosols. Congregations should refrain from singing. Congregations are strongly encouraged to offer pre-recorded music or only one cantor singing at a

distance of at least 12 feet from anyone else during the service, while wearing a face mask.”

Because of this we are going to reduce the number of songs, reduce the number of singers on stage, and worship leaders will use pop filters on their microphones to reduce droplet dispersal.

In light of the state guidelines, you may consider refraining from singing and instead spend the time in prayer and meditation or perhaps you may consider singing softly while using a cloth mask. We ask you to consider the state guidelines and respond in a way that you feel is appropriate.

- Congregants will be directed by ushers to appropriate seating per family in order to maximize our seating limitations and maintaining proper distancing. If you wish to visit with others, we ask that you do so outside while maintaining proper social distancing after the service. Please note this state guidance:
 - ◇ “Congregants should be encouraged to exit directly after services and return to their cars or other mode of transportation.”
- Offering plates will not be passed but instead there will be offering boxes located in the back of the sanctuary in which congregants can use upon entry or exit of the room.
- Communion trays will not be passed but instead there will be individually wrapped bread/juice packets available in each row. Alternatively, family units will come forward and be handed the elements (by someone wearing gloves and wearing a mask).
- Drinking fountains will be closed and it is recommended that congregants bring their own personal water bottles. Please note this state guideline:
 - ◇ “Community drinking stations and water-fountains should not be available/used. Touchless water-filling stations may still be provided”
- There will be only 5 persons allowed at the same time in both the male and female restrooms.
- Doors to the building and sanctuary will remain open for a touch-free entry (or operated by a trained volunteer in case of rain or for any other reason).