

Plan to Regather

Christ Lutheran Church and Little Lamb Preschool Health Plan, Phase 2

rev. June, 2020

Overview and Introduction

On Friday, May 1, Indiana Governor Holcomb released a five staged plan entitled “Back on Track” Indiana, identifying “four guiding principles that will determine if stages to reopen various sectors of the economy will move forward.” As this plan applies to houses of worship and faith-based preschools, it is often asked when Christ Lutheran and Little Lamb Preschool will “reopen.” Nothing could be further from the truth: Christ Lutheran Church and Little Lamb Preschool have never shut down. We have continued to be the church together in different, online, innovative ways - gathering to hear the gospel and respond in praise and prayer, tending to one another and growing together through ministries of care and education, loving and serving our neighbors.

After prayer, reflection, consultation and study, the primary guiding question for Christ Lutheran Church and Little Lamb Preschool is best expressed in the Mid-Kentucky Presbytery’s guidelines for being “Healthy at God’s House”:

The first question for spiritual leaders is not so much when shall we return for in-person worship, but how will we make sure that whenever we return for in-person worship that we will do so in ways that build up the body and show love for our neighbor—all of our neighbors?

Because Christ Lutheran Church and Little Lamb Preschool serve and include members and families of all ages, health conditions and circumstances, ***we will continue to place our vulnerable members, neighbors, and friends as most important in our decision-making.*** While vulnerable populations include those over 65 and with underlying health issues, we are increasingly aware of the ways COVID-19 can impact children, youth, and adults of all ages.

General Principles

Following guidance from the ELCA and Indiana-Kentucky Synod, and the examples of Governor Holcomb and the CDC, our criteria for evaluating in-person programming and in-person worship opportunities will be based on local and Porter County COVID-19 health trends and current recommendations from state and local health, governing, and denominational authorities. We will continue to monitor data provided through the Indiana Dept. of Health and CDC websites, and the CLC Council Executive Committee, in consultation with Staff and the full Council, will make any determination of evolving our restrictions and activities.

Please note that this Plan to Regather is intended as a flexible document that will change and adapt as circumstances warrant.

CLC Regathering Plan:

Note that the following phases are not linear, and we may move between them in any direction as needed.

	Safer at Home <i>CLC Health Plan (v.1) Stage 3</i>	Limited/Hybrid <i>Up to 50 outdoors, 10 indoors</i>	Temporary (New) Normal
General Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All Worship/School/Meetings suspended, excepting Men’s Shelter ● No meetings held in church facilities ● All congregation invited to participate in online worship opportunities ● Church and LLP staff will be in contact with health authorities on steps moving forward. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Home is still safest. The kinds of interaction we treasure at church are the kinds that are most likely to transmit the virus. Any in-person gatherings will be substantially different from “the usual.” ● In-person gatherings that happen will be outside if at all possible; some may be cancelled in cases of bad weather ● Six-foot distancing is always expected, outdoors and indoors ● Masks mandatory if indoors, recommended if outdoors. Masks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Much is TBD as the picture of “new” normal comes into focus. ● Programming/worship usage resumes, in-effect social distancing and mask guidelines continue to be followed. ● Practice of logging persons present in building/at activities continues as much as possible to facilitate contact tracing

		<p>will be available for those who need them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Food is discouraged; any foods to be consumed must be prepackaged.● The church office must be given advance notice of gatherings of any size at CLC, and organizers will use a registration process/sign-in sheet to record attendance.● Gatherings should not exceed 50 outdoors, and 10 indoors.● Any indoor meetings take place in the Church Hall, Gathering Area, or Activity Center (encouraging airflow with open doors)● High-risk folk asked to stay home and safe● Anyone experiencing symptoms, or concerned they may have been exposed, are asked to stay home. Please contact the Pastors.● Restroom usage will limit the number who may enter at the same time, identify distancing via tape on the floor, define routes to and from, doors should remain propped open.● Group organizers asked to sanitize surfaces and areas used. Wipes and materials will be provided.● An individual's in-person presence at the CLC facility for any reason	
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		<p>implies their consent for staff to share their contact information in any contact tracing efforts related to possible COVID-19 exposure</p>	
<p>Worship</p>		<p>Recommendations and guidelines from the ELCA, CDC, Indiana-Kentucky Synod, and Indiana Department of Health continue to indicate that risk mitigation steps for in-person worship affect every aspect of our worshipping lives. Because such central things as group singing and sharing of communion will likely be severely curtailed, our central worship gathering will continue to be Sunday Morning Livestream.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Livestreams will continue to be produced and provided, including Communion. ● We will experiment and explore outdoor in-person worship opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Guidelines for safety will be maintained (see I-K Synod & ELCA guidelines) ○ Numbers will be restricted, and a sign-up system implemented ○ Social distancing maintained at all times 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Worship may move indoors, distancing requirements still in effect. ● Livestreaming continues as a component of our worship life together. ● Ushering resumes ● Lay reader schedule resumes

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No in-person communion ○ No singing ○ No unison speech. ○ No contact while sharing the Peace. ○ No passing Offering Plates. ○ Single-use bulletins and/or personal electronic devices used. No hymnals used. ● Funerals: At church or on location; attendance is limited, distancing and building usage guidelines observed, and livestreaming offered. No Visitations held at CLC at this time. ● Baptisms: By appointment; can be held in the sanctuary during Sunday livestream; font is cleaned before and after. Attendance will be limited and distancing maintained. Can also be a part of outdoor worship experiments. ● Weddings: follow parameters for worship 	
<p>CLC Meetings, Small Groups, Committees</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Via webconference, phone, or postponed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Via webconference, phone, or in person - preferably outdoors; in the Gathering Space/Church Hall/Activity Center with log to register and ventilation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In-person ministry meetings scheduled at various times as can be done safely ● Logs for attendance maintained

<p>Weekday Building Access</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Building is closed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Individual visits to the facility are permitted as pre-arranged with office ● Limit of 10 people in main building and 10 in education wing (if closed off) ● All guests use Door 3 (Office Door) on Campbell St. Guests will sign in and out. ● All building rentals are suspended. ● No food is to be consumed in the building except prepackaged foods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Individual guests to the building continue using Door 3 and will sign in and out. ● In-person gatherings continue to log who is present. ● Visits to building are preferably prearranged with church office.
<p>Ministry with Children</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LLP will transition to an online learning format. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nursery service is suspended. ● Sunday School remains suspended with online experiences provided. ● Vacation Bible School - online and packets will be distributed for at home experiences. ● Children in (outdoor and experimental) worship must also maintain physical distancing. ● Little Lamb Preschool has ended for the 2019-2020 school year. Summer programming has been cancelled and the school will remain without students until the 2020-2021 school year begins in late August. Little Lamb Preschool will open, following CDC and the state of Indiana guidelines and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● TBD as more information about local school operation is available, in-person events may resume if they can be done safely

		requirements for child care/preschools.	
Youth Ministry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meet online, no in-person meetings or activities ● Fusion, Circle, and Confirmation continue to meet as scheduled with changes ● Cohorts continue to meet as scheduled ● All events, trips, fundraisers, and off-site activities are cancelled 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cohorts begin to meet in-person <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The youth ministry's programming will shift to a cohort model. Multiple small groups will be created based on grades and interests. These groups will be able to meet online during lockdowns and in-person during times with less restrictions. ● Fusion, Circle, and Confirmation continue to meet online ● On-site activities outdoors may resume ● Off-site activities outdoors may resume ● All events, trips, fundraisers, and off-site activities remain cancelled 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cohorts continue to meet in-person ● Fusion, Circle, and Confirmation begin in-person meetings with adjustments ● Circle and Fusion still offered online ● Events, trips, fundraisers and off-site activities may resume if able to be done safely
Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff working from home ● Staff only present in building for limited essential work (worship, counting, mail, facilities maintenance) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Work-from-home continues to be preferable when possible; social distancing guidelines should be maintained at all times. ● No drop-in office hours available. ● Staff meetings can be held online, by phone, or in Gathering Space or on Patio. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Regular office hours available. ● Working from the office is available; social distancing guidelines should be maintained at all times. ● Staff meetings: Gathering Space, Patio, zoom, or phone

Pastoral Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available via social media, phone, e-mail and video chat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available via social media, phone, e-mail and video chat In person available outdoors, following social distancing guidelines By appointment only Hospital and Nursing Home visits TBD (on a case-by-case basis and as permissible) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available via social media, phone, e-mail and video chat In person available following appropriate guidelines By appointment only Hospital & Nursing Home visits TBD
Non-CLC meetings and building usage (Shelter, Voting, etc.)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff should be consulted in planning, permission will be granted on a case-by-case basis No food should be served except prepackaged 	

Bibliography and References

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