

Dear Redeemer Family:

Our church leadership continues to monitor the implications of the coronavirus in our community and we want to update you on steps being taken to ensure the safety and well-being of our members, guests, students and staff.

Our community is again experiencing an increase in numbers of positive test results, hospitalizations and even deaths. Reports are showing that the Delta variant is more contagious and is infecting our children at higher rates. This data is concerning for our church community when we consider the number of church youth, SLS students and Nixa Preschool students who worship and participate in activities in our buildings.

With all of God's children in mind, the following steps are being taken.

1. Redeemer encourages anyone experiencing COVID-related symptoms (cough, fever, respiratory issues) or awaiting the results of a test to please stay home and join us virtually.
2. Redeemer encourages all who enter the buildings to wear a mask. Masks will be available at the entrances and are required in the school side of the buildings.
3. Redeemer encourages social distancing. At our Springfield campus, every other row of pews will be roped off in the sanctuary. Chairs in the Nixa sanctuary will be spread out. Both campuses will distance tables and chairs throughout the building to allow for social distancing.
4. Redeemer will provide additional sanitizing stations throughout the buildings.
5. Redeemer will Regularly sanitize high touch areas such as door handles, tables, chairs and restroom areas.
6. Redeemer leadership will regularly evaluate the safety of all church activities. Guidance from local health officials will determine any adjustments that need to be made.
7. Leadership will continue to communicate with local health officials and participate in ongoing county health meetings to ensure that Redeemer has the most current COVID-related data and guidance. Data and recommendations from local health authorities will guide Redeemer's decisions about safely conducting church life during the ongoing COVID situation.

For your information the following guidelines were implemented by Springfield Lutheran School to ensure the safety of the SLS students and staff. As with the church, school leaders are eager to make things as normal as possible, and are very committed to ongoing reevaluation.

1. SLS will adopt a universal masking policy for all students, staff, and visitors - regardless of vaccination status.
2. SLS will continue to limit parent access to the building during morning drop off. Students in grades preschool, prekindergarten, and kindergarten may have one masked parent escort them into the building. Students in grades 1-8 are expected to enter the building without an escort. Parents can still come into the building by making arrangements with the office, or at the end of the school day.
3. SLS will participate in competitive sports at this time. SLS athletes and staff must wear masks when not in active practice or play (i.e., on the sidelines, on the bench, sitting together in groups). Spectators may be limited to one guest only as needed, and may be required to mask if SLS is still requiring universal masking.
4. SLS will not have an instrumental band at this time due to lack of space for social distancing and the challenges of set up/tear down/following the church building schedule of activities.
5. SLS will allow choir in the Redeemer sanctuary if the students are able to be socially distant. If they cannot be far apart, they must wear masks.
6. SLS will provide limited work and virtual instruction for students needing to quarantine.

In a sinful world there are no perfect guidelines that will ensure the safety and comfort of all members of our faith family. The leadership of our church and school have

carefully and prayerfully considered these guidelines. While we acknowledge that issues regarding COVID safety have become highly controversial, it is not our intention to offend anyone. We pray that all in our faith family seek out trusted medical guidance and consider carefully how they can best protect and serve their neighbors. Remember that God calls all of us to “be gentle; be patient, and bear with each other in love” (Ephesians 4:2). We continue, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to trust that God is actively working both at Redeemer and in our larger community, and we diligently pray for the health and safety of all!