



Letter from Pastor Bradley E. Schmeling

Dear Friends,

God's grace be with you during these interesting, challenging and grace-filled days!

Gloria Dei's CoVID-19 Safety Task Force, with the approval of the Congregation Council, decided to extend our current plan of Limited Building Use (Phase 2) until the end of the Christmas cycle, January 6, 2021. While businesses reopen across Minnesota, our leadership at Gloria Dei continues to take a careful approach as we turn 'the dial' toward reopening.

- Sunday morning worship will continue online, and all fall programming will be online.
- Liturgical celebrations, that is, weddings, funerals and baptisms, may be celebrated in the sanctuary with a maximum of 35 people (an increase). We will continue to require masks and physical distancing.
- Church staff will continue to work at home as they are able or come to the building for essential operations.
- Groups of 10 or fewer may apply to use the building to accomplish the church's mission.
- The Safety Task Force may grant exceptions to this plan for extraordinary needs, such as the Red Cross Blood Drive or civic elections. In such instances, we will require all safety protocols outlined in our church CoVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan.
- The task force gave permission for the Neighborhood House Preschool program to continue classes this fall with reduced class size of 10 per classroom (two classrooms), and masks required for the preschool teachers, staff and parents. Classrooms and toys will be sanitized after each day's use.

Staff and the task force will continue ongoing assessments to assure we base our decisions on the latest medical and/or governmental recommendations. Find Frequently Asked Questions on our [website](#).

We know that these decisions are hard for us all. We yearn to be back in community, but we continue to believe that our primary responsibility is to love our neighbor by protecting one another from the spread of the coronavirus. We believe these decisions are a key part of our congregational mission of loving, healing and caring.

Let me share a quick overview of what we have planned so far for fall. You'll see more details in upcoming emails, on our website and through social media.

- Sunday, September 13, Drive-through Rally Day in Gloria Dei's parking lot.
- Sunday, September 20, online Sunday School (Age 3 through Grade 6) begins on Zoom.
- Sunday, September 20, online Sunday Forums begin on Zoom.
- Wednesday, September 23, online Confirmation begins on Zoom.

As we continue to be a church deployed, living out the gospel of love and justice in our families, in our work and in the world, we trust that God is leading us into new life. Know that our church staff is here to support you, to pray with you and to listen. If you would like to speak with a pastor or anyone on our staff, please don't hesitate to contact us. We miss you and would love to hear from you.

Peace, Love, Grace,

Pastor Bradley E. Schmeling

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Contact
Us

