



# SAFE SANCTUARY PLAN

*A plan to bring our faith family back together around the altar of our Lord.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We've missed you! Gathering, physically, around God's Word and Sacraments is embedded into the DNA of Christ's disciples and it is central to what we value as the Our Redeemer Lutheran Church family. Paul, when unable to be with fellow believers, longed to see those he served. The past 10 weeks have created this longing in all who follow Jesus Christ. We all want to get back together!

Our Safe Sanctuary Plan serves as our roadmap to what re-opening in-person worship looks like. As you walk through the plan, please remember that as a congregation we value Scriptural purity, caring relationships, and believe we are at our best when we are generous with God's abundance. This means, during a time like we are living through, we absolutely prioritize loving God and receiving His means of grace (Deuteronomy 6:5), loving our neighbor and freely sharing God's gifts with all people (Galatians 5:14), and honoring those whom God has placed in authority over us (Romans 13:1-8).

*Awesome is God from his sanctuary; the God of Israel -  
He is the one who gives power and strength to his people.  
Blessed be God! – Psalm 68:35*

On May 20, 2020 representatives of Our Redeemer's MMC, Elders, Pastoral staff, and Administration met to discuss what re-opening worship will look like during the coming weeks. We are grateful to Wauwatosa for allowing religious organizations to define their own re-opening plans. We wish to steward this opportunity in ways that balance our desire to resume normal worship life with the ongoing public health crisis. While this is a plan to start making in-person worship available, please know that it is okay to continue participating by livestream, especially if you are in high risk health category.

## SAFE SANCTUARY GOALS

- Bring the congregation together
- Celebrate the Lord's Supper
- Seat, in-person, max. 50% sanctuary capacity
- Mitigate spread of Covid-19
- Unite in best practices with area LCMS congregations

## WORSHIP / LORD'S SUPPER TIMES AND OPPORTUNITIES

### Sunday, May 31

**9:00  
AM** to **10:00  
AM**

Livestream only with consecration of the Lord's Supper.

**10:30  
AM** to **12:30  
PM**

In-person distribution of the Supper in the Sanctuary. As you arrive on campus, you will be greeted and given instructions for parking and entering the building. The Lord's Supper will be distributed in a continuous flow for the foreseeable future.

### Saturday, June 6

**4:30  
PM** to **5:30  
PM**

In-person worship in the sanctuary with Lord's Supper.

### Sunday, June 7

**9:00  
AM** to **10:00  
AM**

Livestream and in-person worship in the sanctuary. The Lord's Supper will be distributed following the worship service.

**10:30  
AM** to **12:30  
PM**

In-person distribution of the Supper in the Sanctuary for those who wish to worship via livestream and come to campus for the Supper.

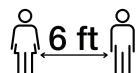
*We will continue the Saturday 4:30PM / Sunday 9:00AM, 10:30AM-12:30PM schedule for the foreseeable future. Please let greeters know if you wish to receive the Lord's Supper but have health concerns. We will make every reasonable effort to provide you with the Lord's Supper in a way that does not compromise your health.*

# HEALTHY MEASURES AS WE GATHER TOGETHER IN-PERSON

Whereas we can define our re-opening plans, Wauwatosa is still recommending that public gatherings do not exceed 10 people. To balance both interests, please observe the following when you decide to return to in-person worship and / or participate in the Lord's Supper on campus:



**Per Wauwatosa Health Department Guidelines some measures Our Redeemer will be taking:**



**Maintain a physical distance of six (6) feet between people not residing in a single living unit or household. People arriving for in-person worship will be seated by Our Redeemer staff and leadership to help maintain appropriate distances of people seated in worship. We will only seat 50% of our sanctuary capacity in the sanctuary proper (not all pews will be available). Overflow spaces will be available.**



**Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds as frequently as possible or use hand sanitizer. The volunteers and staff, including pastors and elders during the Lord's Supper, will make frequent use of hand washing and hand sanitizing.**



**Cover coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not hands). As always, please stay home if you are not feeling well, have a fever, or are experiencing any flu-like symptoms.**



**Regularly clean high-touch surfaces. A team of staff and volunteers will work throughout our public worship times to continually wipe down surfaces with disinfectant. We have also made the decision to pull all the books from the pews during this time (e.g., hymnals and Bibles). We will be sanitizing pews, etc. between public worship events.**



**Not shaking hands. We will discontinue our practice of sharing the peace at the beginning of in-person worship during this time. We ask people to move out of the building at the conclusion of worship / Lord's Supper. We will not be hosting fellowship time. We will not be using our mailboxes during this time.**



**Use a mask or cloth face covering. Those who are not able to wear a mask will be seated in a common section of the sanctuary. All volunteers, including pastors during the distribution of the Lord's Supper, will wear masks during the duration of public worship. Those leading worship will do so at twice the recommended distance from worshipers.**

## MORE INFORMATION

For more on what has informed our decision-making please see:

The LCMS South Wisconsin District

<https://swd.lcms.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/SWD-Reopening-after-COVID.pdf>

Wauwatosa Health Department

<https://www.wauwatosa.net/Home/Components/News/News/1996/2664>

<https://www.wauwatosa.net/home/showdocument?id=2759>

*This plan has been prepared to the glory of God  
and the good of His people by:*

Rev. Andrew Steinke, Senior Pastor, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Mr. Mark Willer, Congregational President, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Mrs. Julie Wessel, Congregational Vice-President, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Mr. Gary Phillips, Elder, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Rev. Wayne Schroeder, Pastor Emeritus, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Mr. Jason Seymour, Executive Director, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church