

# Crown of Life In-Person Worship Plans & Precautions

*Last updated: May 28, 2020*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Rejoice with us! In keeping with the restrictions that were lifted by the Governor last week, WE ARE PLANNING IN-PERSON WORSHIP THIS WEEKEND (May 30-June 1)! We have been praying and planning for this opportunity for quite some time. We are grateful that our Lord has opened a door for us to be together again in worship in his house.

With that joyful news being said, we also want to reopen worship safely and responsibly, according to all the state guidelines. Below are the details of our in-person worship plan, including the precautions we are taking and precautions we ask that you take. After reviewing our plan, please click the link at the bottom of this document to take a short survey that will help us know your comfort-level in returning and what else we might do to make in-person worship more comfortable for you.

## **What We Are Offering:**

1. We will offer worship at the usual service times, but for now ONLY at our West St. Paul campus, which more easily accommodates social distancing. We will let everyone know as soon as services will resume at our Eagan campus. Services, for the time being, will continue to be abbreviated (30-45 minutes).
  - o Saturday - 5:00pm
  - o Sunday - 8:00 & 10:30am
  - o \*Monday - 6:30pm \*(See below for **special Monday night precautions** taken.)
2. Since we are limited to 130 attendees per service, we will need to ask you to RSVP FOR WHICH SERVICE YOU WILL ATTEND in order to keep all attendees under the gathering threshold. Each week, you will find the weekend's sign-up link on our website: [crownoflifemn.org](http://crownoflifemn.org). You may also call the church office (651.451.3832) to reserve your spot(s).
3. In-person Bible study will not resume until non-worship gatherings increase to more than 10 or fewer attendees. We will live stream the study on Facebook at 9:15 each Sunday morning.
4. We will not be offering coffee and treats between services. Current protocols do not allow for the serving of food outside of the Sacrament.

## **Precautions We Will Be Taking:**

4. Our usher and elder teams will be undergoing specific training to maintain cleanliness and gathering thresholds before, during, and after services. Ushers will be wearing masks.
5. Ushers will usher attendees out of the sanctuary from the back to the front pews.

6. We will prop open exterior and interior doors to avoid contact with door handles and increase ventilation. Should weather warrant exterior doors being closed, an usher (with gloves and mask) will open doors as attendees arrive.
7. Hand sanitizer stations will be placed throughout the building.
8. For the time being, any mingling is best kept to a minimum, maintaining good social distancing (6 feet), and ideally outdoors.
9. Children's busy-bags will not be available for the time being.
10. Certain pews will be blocked off and we ask you to give adequate space between households.
11. We will not offer printed bulletins at this time. Hymnals and Bibles have been removed from the pews. The service may be followed on the screen.
12. A formal offering will not be taken during the service. Offering plates will be set out for you to give your thank-offering.
13. We will not use the friendship registers.
14. We will sanitize the tops of pews and other frequently touched surfaces between services.
15. COMMUNION
  - a. We will begin offering the Lord's Supper on the weekend of June 5-7. That will give us the chance to "practice" our protocols and precautions this first weekend without the added variables of communion distribution.
  - b. We will not be offering the common cup.
  - c. We will space out individual cups in trays.
  - d. Communion assistants will wear masks and gloves for distribution.
  - e. Please extend your arms as far out in front of you as comfortable, opening both of your hands together to receive the bread. The communion assistant will drop the wafer into each recipient's hands in order to avoid contact.
  - f. We will offer the sacrament by continuous-flow distribution. We will provide explanations and diagrams of how this operates this coming weekend as well as the week leading up to the first Communion weekend.
  - g. If you do not feel comfortable receiving the sacrament at this time, that is just fine.

**Precautions You May Also Take:**

16. The wearing of masks is encouraged. We understand that some people prefer not to wear them or may feel light-headed when wearing a mask. However, if you would like to sing the hymns along with the song leaders, we ask that you do wear a mask while singing.
17. Children are absolutely welcome! As usual, you may feel free to take little ones outside of the sanctuary as needed. We certainly understand if you prefer to continue to worship from home until restrictions are further lifted.

**NEW - Special Monday Night Precautions:**

18. Monday night precautions will include all of the above, plus the following:

- a. **Masks are required for all**, except the pastor while conducting the service.
- b. There will be **no singing** in the service. Pre-service and post-service music will still be provided to help foster a worshipful atmosphere.

Finally, we want to impress one more very important point. **If you are not feeling well; if you are in a "high risk category" for COVID-19; or if you are simply nervous or fearful for your health and safety to come and worship in a group....it is ok to remain home and continue worshipping online!** And please do stay home if you have any of the following symptoms: fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, headache, muscle pain, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell. Other less common symptoms include gastrointestinal symptoms like nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.

We will still be recording our worship services and sharing them on our YouTube channel. You can still catch our Sunday morning Bible study live at 9:15 Sunday mornings on our Facebook page. We want you to be safe, healthy and blessed with peace of mind. Please feel free to contact any of the Pastors if you have questions or concerns.

May God continue to bless all of you as we continue to move forward together as a congregation. Whether you will be able to worship in person this weekend or if you continue to worship with us online, we are one church, redeemed by one Savior, supporting each other and sharing God's love....one person at a time!

*Thank you for taking the time to read our plan. Please [click here to take our survey](#). It will help us serve you and others better!*