

A Message from Glory's Return to In-Person Worship Working Group

As you may know, we have started the process of planning for a gradual return to in-person worship. In order to do so, we are required to follow guidelines published by Alberta Health Services. Our Alberta Synod has made a checklist to follow, which is based on these guidelines. Copies of both the AHS Guidelines and the Alberta Synod Guidelines and Sample Checklist can be found at the links set out below if you wish to read them:

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/covid-19-information-guidance-for-places-of-worship>

<https://albertasynod.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Updated-Synod-Guidelines-and-Sample-Checklist-for-Returning-to-In-Person-Worship-June-12-2020.pdf>

Not to worry if you're feeling overwhelmed just looking at the link addresses, let alone the guidelines themselves! We have summarized the important points in the Narrative that follows this message.

We understand that some of our members may not be ready to return to in-person worship, especially under the current conditions and guidelines. More than a dozen volunteers have offered to be on our Working Group in order to ensure that these guidelines are followed as we prepare for in-person worship. We are not pressuring anyone to return and will continue to offer online services as well. Currently, we are planning for the following **in-person worship services** at Glory Lutheran Church:

- **Wednesdays, beginning on October 7, 10:30 a.m.:** A service of prayer and spoken word for up to 15 people. This might be especially attractive to those members of the congregation who do not have access to our online services. **Please call the church office to reserve your spot no later than 3:00 p.m. on the Tuesday before Wednesday's service.**
- **Sunday, October 25, 10:30 a.m.:** Reformation Sunday and Confirmation. Worship service for up to 50 people. Family and guests of the confirmands will be in attendance, along with as many other people as we can accommodate within the 50-person limit.
- In-person worship services going forward in November will probably be held on the **2nd and 4th Sundays of the month**. *This is primarily because we do not have enough volunteers, including musicians and sound/video techs.*

In-person services will be recorded and posted on our website later in the day on Sunday.

On Sundays when there is no in-person service scheduled, our online service will be offered as it has been in the past few months.

As with most things these days, our planning for services will be a work in progress and we may need to adapt and change things as we go forward. We thank everyone for their patience and look forward to coming together in worship in whatever form that may take in the months ahead!