

October 14, 2020

Dear Friends and members of Our Saviour's;

I have much to report to you this week. Amidst this Covid19 pandemic and the limitations it has imposed, our congregation is weathering this storm quite well. We have tried to move ahead intentionally, strategically, and reasonably regarding ministry. With protocols and procedures in place, our preschool and youth ministry have been operating safely and successfully. 45 children are currently attending our preschool. Parents have taken seriously their roles and responsibilities toward safety, and our teachers are doing their due diligence in keeping the children and our facility clean. In addition to regularly spraying, wiping down, vacuuming, and sanitizing, they have also purchased air purifiers for each classroom, which purifies the air every 10-15 minutes.

Alex, our Student and Family Director, has continued to provide ministry for our youth. Confirmation class has started on Monday afternoons at 4:30 p.m. He has 12 kids attending. Both The Vine (middle and high school students) and Branches (elementary age) have been increasing in numbers – as well as attendance on Sunday mornings. Kids are beginning to invite their friends. Alex has included two controlled outside events – roller skating and bowling – following safety procedures and went very well. Between Preschool and Youth Ministry – we are regularly ministering to over 100 kids. God is moving!

So far, as we have staged our church opening, we have not had any Covid19 related illness or complications. Praise the Lord! Please continue pray for the health and safety of our children, volunteers, teachers, staff, friends and members of Our Saviour's.

As the Church Council has been meeting in the fellowship hall for the past few months, we are beginning to open up to a few other small group gatherings, maintaining masks, distancing and sanitizing. The church has purchased an atomized sprayer that will be used in the facility for further, deep cleaning.

Our next strategic step in this pandemic is to bring Sunday morning worship inside our facility. Beginning Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, we will be providing four different options in which to worship. 1. A "Live" worship service will be held in the Fellowship Hall. 2. This service will also be projected on the TV screens in our sanctuary. 3. We will continue to transmit the service over the radio, for those who want to remain in their cars in the parking lot. 4. And we will continue to post our service on our website, for those who still want to remain at home. We hope that these four options will allow everyone to find a way to worship with us on Sunday. Worship will continue to be held at 9:45 a.m., and located on your fm radio.

We have developed, and will publicly post, health procedures that our church will follow as we worship indoors, per state requirements. These procedures will also be posted on our website and we ask that you read through them at your convenience.

We will be limited to provide seating for only 75 people in either the Fellowship Hall or the Sanctuary (a total of 150 people in both spaces – 25% of occupancy). You will be encouraged to "self check" at home before you come to church. If your temperature is above 100.4, have a cough, or other common Covid19 symptoms, please remain at home. Before entering the building, you will be required to wear a mask, sanitize your hands, and have your temperature checked. If your temperature is below 100.4, you will be asked to sign in (for future potential tracing if needed), and then escorted to your seats. No bulletins will be passed out inside the building, as the service will be projected on the video screens.

With the growing number of kids, Sunday Children's Ministry will be located upstairs in the larger room to create better safety and social distancing.

We want to give a shout out to all our leaders and people who serve behind the scenes that are allowing us to open for worship. **PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING TO HELP, AS MANY PEOPLE ARE NEEDED EVERY SUNDAY.** We need people to help with check in, ushering, technology, sound, and general operations.

Thank you to Karim Khoury, Dan Norris and Karen Ulbricht for developing the procedure manual. Thank you to Paul Anderson, Chuck Nelson, and Karen Ulbricht, in constructing the wooden podium that matched the wood on the cross in the fellowship hall. Thank you to the Design Committee for finishing the window coverings. Thank you to Nate Schwartz for putting in place all the technology needed to project our services through the building and over the airwaves. Thank you to Sharon and Sig Hansen for recording and posting our worship online. Thank you to so many others, week in and week out that make our worship possible. **If you are willing to help in any way, please email or talk to me.**

#### **A Huge Debt of Gratitude:**

Sheri Durham has served as the Treasurer of our congregation faithfully for over six years. Due to personal reasons, Sheri will be stepping down from that position. We have been so blessed by the service, devotion and commitment, and skill that she brought to our church and members. We are deeply grateful for her service and thankful that she will continue to volunteer in many other ways in our congregation.

So also, Melissa Williams, who is both our Education Council Member and OSLC Preschool teacher – will also be stepping down from her Preschool Teacher position. During this time, she will focus upon her kids and family. She will continue serving on our church Council. The Preschool already has a teacher in mind who will take over her position.

Regarding the Treasurer's position, a job description will be made available upon request. If you are interested in the position, please send an email to our church secretary's email address: [oslcstanwood@frontier.com](mailto:oslcstanwood@frontier.com), and Linda, will forward it to you. We will first post the Treasurer's position within our congregation and then will open the position to the public.

Alpha Ministry. Alpha is a worldwide discipleship program teaching the fundamentals of the Christian faith in an engaging way. It has been effective for over 30 years as it creates a safe place to ask questions and explore the subject of faith. We hope to host the 11-week Alpha event at OSLC, in early 2021. This is short notice, but I was just notified that a virtual Alpha training session is going to be held **tomorrow, Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.** If you are interested to learn more – please respond to this email or call me 425-193-1074 – and I can send you the link to sign up. A small group of us will be gathering at the church to watch the virtual training together, if you are interested – while masked and social distanced.

Christmas House. Mardi Jorgensen will again oversee the Christmas House gift giving for children in our community. Many volunteers will be needed. Adjustments will be made regarding safety and distribution. If you are interested to help or want more information, please contact Mardi at 360-913-1551.

Devotions. We will continue to email devotions on Tuesday and Thursday. I will be writing one for Tuesdays. 13 Members of our congregation agreed to be part of a team that will write a devotion to be sent on Thursdays.

Continue to pray for our church, community, nation, schools, educators, students, and parents. Pray for our first responders and those who serve behind the lines and scenes. Pray for God's peace, guidance and direction as we face so many uncertainties at this time.

God Bless You All! Pastor Mark