

## **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER AND PLAN FOR NOW BEFORE ACTIVITIES RESUME AT CHURCH**

I sense that at least initially it will not be back to “business as usual” as a country once the stay at home order is lifted, and that includes our churches.

What practices need to be altered for the well-being of others as activities resume until the threat of the coronavirus is diminished with treatment and a vaccine?

- A. What if your worship gathering is initially limited?
  - 1. Should you add and/or shorten worship services to allow for social distancing?
  - 2. How much space should be place between people in the pews?
  - 3. Do we block off pews so that people no longer sit right behind someone?
  - 4. How many people do we sit in a pew and how far apart?
  - 5. Will we adjust the service length and offer more than the 8 and 10:30 hours?
  - 6. Will you reopen the doors of your church with a “worship only” strategy?
  - 7. Will people be asked to wear masks
  - 8. Can we obtain hand sanitizer in the pews?
  
- B. What adjustments will we make to the Lord’s Supper, baptisms, and choir ministry?
  - 1. How can we avoid touching the bread?
  - 2. Is it in practical to ask people to bring their own piece of bread?
  - 3. Do we use the self-contained wafer and juice container that is similar to a coffee creamer. You lift the first tap for the wafer and the second tab for the juice.
  - 4. How would we distribute these containers with cross contamination.
  
  - 5. Can choir members stand next to each other?
  
  - 6. What adjustments need to be made for baptisms?
  
- C. VBS Plans
  - 1. We already decided to offer VBS online. What if the stay at home order is lifted before VBS? Will we still offer the online version instead of meeting at church?
  
- D. Passing the plate
  - 1. Is a physical “pass the plate” offering a thing of the past?
  - 2. Do we have offering plates at entrances / exits at the end of the service? Is that secure?
  - 3. Can we make offering boxes with a slot for so that worshipers can slide their envelopes, cash, or checks into secured boxes?

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- E. What are you doing now to sanitize and sterilize your church building?
  - 1. We did a deep cleaning in March.
  - 2. What level of cleaning needs to take place before the doors open.
  
- F. Sunday Morning Faith Formation Hour
  - 1. Are you going to continue offering our Sunday morning Family, Confirmation and Adult Tables during the faith formation hour?
  - 2. How can the room be set up for social distancing?
  - 3. Will snacks or beverages be available from the church?
  - 4. Will we ask people to bring their own snack or beverage to church?
  
- G. What adjustments need to be made for funerals or other special events?
  
- H. Are you continuing to provide coffee or food stations?
  
- I. Will we continue offering virtual meditations and Sunday morning devotions?
  - 1. What do we need to record the service to make the service available on line?
  - 2. We would need to purchase a License to record music. Perhaps multiple licenses from Augsburg, One License and Church Copy Right License where we have the copyright to reprint on paper.
  
- J. What if volunteers step down? Older folks may want to limit their activities.
  
- K. What's is our strategy to clean and sanitize your church in real time? Between services and weekday activities?
  
- L. Is there an impact on evening activities?
  - 1. Will groups be responsible for cleaning surfaces?
  
- M. Do door greeters and ushers do their jobs differently, or at all?
  - 1. Do we want a door greeter or usher standing within a foot of a person? That's not in line with good physical distancing practices, is it? The new normal may be for greeters or usher to stand back six feet, inside the church building, and welcome people verbally without opening the door for them.

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- N. Because people may return very slowly to church, how will you count attendance and effectiveness?
- O. Should you add and/or shorten worship services to allow for social distancing? I touched on this in #1 above, but let's drill down a bit. If physical gatherings are limited in size, you have a few options: (1) offer more services (2) encourage people to continue worshiping online (3) remove chairs from your worship center to help people avoid
- P. What impact will there be to small group ministries?
- Q. Should you be investing in new digital equipment right now to increase our online presence?
- R. Will a new staff or volunteer position emerge from our present stay at home reality? How will we maintain a virtual presence?
- S. What other questions or items do we need to consider before resuming any level of activity beyond the stay at home policy?