



LIVING TRUTH
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
CHURCH REOPENING PLAN
6/9/20

RELEASED: 6/9/2020

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STANDING TOGETHER



PLEASE NOTE: Reservation forms for the following Sunday services will be available on Wednesday through an app announcement and through our website - tap the appropriate banner at the top of our homepage.

Since therefore, brethren, we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.

Hebrews 10:19-25 NASB

The passage above is a wonderful reminder of who we are in Christ, the confident access we have to our God through Him, and the faithful promises we stand upon as believers. We can walk forward together in faith and not fear because Jesus is The King!

We also have a call to action in vv. 24-25. We are called to “assemble together.” The language points to a Christian worship assembly or gathering in one place. One of the purposes of that meeting is for encouragement, to stir up one another to love and good deeds. There is even an urgency communicated to us, that we need this gathering to prepare us for Christ’s return. Even if He doesn’t return in our lifetime, we need to consider how precious gathering with God’s people is and how our corporate gathering honors God and His Word. By being apart for this extended period we are not able to obey Biblical admonitions (e.g. Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:42; Hebrews 10:24-25; James 5:16; 1 Peter 4:10). We call many of these the “one another” commands and they cannot really be done if we are not together as one body (1 Corinthians 12:12-31).

In the light of these considerations, the pastors/elders and staff of Living Truth determined to reopen our doors, along with hundreds of other California churches on May 31st, “Pentecost Sunday.” This Sunday honors the birth of the church so come ready to rejoice! **You can reserve your spot at one of our services by making a reservation. (see above)** This can be done on the church app or website. The reason for the reservation is the need to space us out appropriately and not have to turn people away if we are over the appropriate number. **We ask for your patience as we work through this process, making changes where necessary.**

As we look forward to being together again in corporate worship and fellowship, God’s Word also calls upon us to be wise. We have to understand the times, and thus navigate them in a way that acknowledges current realities. This is our goal as we move forward.

Your leaders have spent much time praying, looking at Scripture, meeting with other leaders and attorneys and gathering all pertinent information. Our approach is reopening with common sense, keeping it simple and safe. Please be in prayer for the leadership as we navigate this time as information seems to change almost daily! With that in mind, let's all remain thankful and flexible. Let's defer to one another and consider others as more important than ourselves (Philippians 2:3-5). Let's walk in the fruit of the Holy Spirit and love each other as our Lord commanded. Remember that the changes we implement are only temporary. Let's also keep in mind our more vulnerable members, take personal responsibility and walk in love and wisdom. This is a time for love, unity, and gratitude, not division and judgment over debatable matters. This is not all about us and our opinions and preferences, it is about God and others. What a wonderful opportunity we have right now to live out our faith!

You may be thinking, "why should we gather if we can't hug or give handshakes? Why should we gather if we have to wear face coverings?" Brethren, let's remember that our gathering together is for worship and encouragement. As much as I love those "holy hugs," I can be in the same room with God's people and be blessed and encouraged!

Fellowship is not just about a hug - it is about our oneness (John 17:11). It is about standing together, worshipping together, praying together, hearing God's Word together and being there for one another (1 Corinthians 12:20-21, cf. Nehemiah 8:1). Recently, I was with some of our staff celebrating a few birthdays. It had been a while since we had been in the same room. Just their presence was so refreshing. Just being together. Also remember that the guidelines in this document are temporary and we are blessed just to be together again.

We will now hold two morning services at our normal times effective June 14th, neither of which will have childcare or Sunday School (at least at the beginning). The times will be 9:00 AM and 11:15 AM. Remember, in order for us to manage the numbers, and respect health guidelines, we are requesting that you make a reservation for you and or your family through the church app or website.

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. May the Lord lift His countenance upon you and give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26

Looking forward to seeing you and being together again!

Love,

Pastor Michael



OUR PHILOSOPHY



The Elder Board's decision to reopen Living Truth's Christian Fellowship's (LTCF) doors was not taken lightly or rashly decided. This decision was developed out of much prayer, fasting, discussion, Scripture reading and patience to hear God's voice to lead us.

LTCF has executed our due diligence to the best of our abilities to honor our local authorities while maintaining our obedience to our God, His Word, and the leading of His Holy Spirit. We firmly believe the church is an essential service to our communities especially during this time of virus infection/transmission uncertainties. We are not necessarily looking to be put on the same level as other "essential" businesses, we could argue that the church is more important because it is God's ordained means by which we preach the saving Gospel, disciple believers and minister to the soul. The church's mission is transcendent, that is why it is vital that we open our doors.

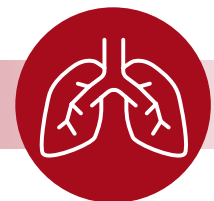
RESPECT & PROTECT:

It is our goal and great desire to do all we can to protect all the people who attend Living Truth with common-sense measures to prevent the spread of all possible illnesses including the present COVID-19.

It is well known that the virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread in various ways to others by infected persons who have few to no symptoms and are not aware they are carrying the virus. Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk.

Because of the hidden nature of this threat, we are asking everyone to follow to the best of their ability out of respect to their Brothers and Sisters the following practices specified in these protocols, all of which facilitate a safe and controlled reopening of Living Truth Christian Fellowship. The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our communities. Therefore, with compassion and caring for each other, we should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, especially those who are most vulnerable.

SECTION 1 - HEALTH CONDITIONS



WHO IS AT RISK?

Based on what we know now, those at high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19 are:

- People 65 years and older

People of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, including:

- People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
- People who have serious heart conditions
- People who are immunocompromised

Many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications.

- People with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher)
- People with diabetes
- People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
- People with liver disease

As a precaution, we ask that those of you planning to attend a worship service at LTCF do the following **before** departing for the church:

- Take your temperature. Anyone who has a fever should not come to church out of courtesy to your church family.
- Wash your hands thoroughly.
- Use the restroom to minimize the use of bathrooms at the church.

If we become aware that someone who has been in a service becomes ill, we will ask the person to stay home and seek medical care if needed. Persons should stay at home for at least seven days after symptoms started AND three days after symptoms are improved and fever resolves without the use of fever-reducing medications. Persons should also stay home 48 hours after being exposed to a sick child.

Because of the dangers related to COVID-19, we are encouraging that all members age 65 and older (generally speaking, although this number is being debated), and members of all ages who have underlying health conditions such as breathing conditions, cancer treatments, suppressed immune systems, etc., to please stay home and continue worshipping via livestream.

Source: Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website, April 2020

SECTION 2 - SOCIAL DISTANCING



Signs will be posted around our church campus and shall be observed by members and guests on return to campus.

No one should plan to attend services who is known to have had any contact with a known COVID-19 confirmed case.

Members are encouraged to wear a mask until further notice and to maintain six feet of distance when speaking to one another.

To simplify this process, the following practices shall be observed:

DO

- Wear a mask (encouraged)
- Wash your hands before leaving your home
- Stay six feet from others
- Cover your coughs or sneezes
- Visit hand sanitizer stations frequently
- Use the restroom before leaving your home

DON'T

- Physically touch (e.g., handshakes, hugging, “fist or elbow bumping”)
- Come to church if you are sick
- Touch your face, nose, and mouth
- Leave trash in the sanctuary

VOLUNTEERS

With the help of our volunteers, we will be observing these distancing policies:

- We will train all volunteers on appropriate cleaning, hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette such as wearing face masks, etc.
- Discretion will be used in assessing the health of volunteers before they enter the church, utilizing guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).
- Volunteers will be required to wash their hands before entering the church and use hand sanitizer once they enter.
- Volunteers (excluding those scheduled to be on the stage) will be required to wear face masks.
- Volunteers will use a common sense approach to maintaining a safe distance from others.
- Parking lot attendants will wear masks.
- Attendees and ushers will maintain social distancing of six feet at all times, from the time we drive onto the property and exit our car until the time we get back into our cars after the service.
- Sanctuary doors will be propped open to avoid the touching of door handles.
- Hallways and aisles will be clearly marked for one-way foot traffic. Please follow all signage inside and outside the building.
- Doors will be designated as “entrance-only” or “exit-only.” Please observe all signage.
- **Ushers will seat attenders before the services.** Please note that you may not necessarily be able to sit in a pew that you are normally accustomed to sitting. Families will sit together. This will facilitate implementing social distancing in an organized manner.
- With regards to seating, distancing will be kept in all directions – front, back, left, and right.
- At the end of the services, ushers will dismiss attenders in a controlled orderly manner maintaining social distancing. Ushers may need to direct people to a specific exit door. There will be no gatherings at doorways.
- Offering bags will not be passed during the services. A secure offering box is located in front of the sound booth in the sanctuary. You are also encouraged to use online giving.
- All fellowship before and after service should be respectful of all the health guidelines laid out in this document. **We encourage all to return home expeditiously to make room for those who are coming onto the church grounds** and to keep social congregating minimal.
- The sanctuary will be cleared at the end of each service and will remain closed until fifteen minutes prior to the beginning of the next service.
- No coffee or food will be served or shared on campus.

GREETERS & HOSPITALITY TEAMS

- Greeters will be required to wear face masks. They will adhere to social distancing of six feet and will abstain from hand shaking or hugging.
- There will be no food or refreshments offered by the Sweet Fellowship team.
- Space in common areas, such as the foyer and courtyard, will be reduced to discourage social congregating before or after services.

INFO TABLE

- We will not staff the info table at this time. Information is available on LTCF's website and app.

ALTAR CALL / REQUEST FOR PRAYER

- After each service, individuals needing encouragement and prayer should move to the designated area toward the front of the sanctuary, and wait to be called by a pastor or member of the prayer team. Social distancing requirements shall be maintained during prayer.

NURSERY/TODDLERS, LT KIDS & YOUTH MINISTRIES

- Until further notice, all children (babies through 6th grade), and junior high and high school students will worship with their parents in the sanctuary.
- If your child has had a fever in the last 72 hours, please keep him/her at home for the well-being of others who are coming to worship

FAMILY ROOM

- Until further notice, the Family Room will be available for nursing mothers only.

SECTION 3 - SANITATION OF FACILITIES



While Living Truth has always maintained high quality standards of cleaning our facilities, many adjustments have been made in order to prevent illness from spreading in our common areas.

FACILITY JANITORIAL / MAINTENANCE:

- We have a paid custodian who cleans and disinfects our facilities on a frequent basis. We will also be adding volunteers to help clean prior and between church services.
- Every staff member and/or volunteer performing cleaning tasks will be required to wear a mask and gloves while cleaning.
- Only cleaning products appearing on the EPA list of approved products will be used to disinfect.

ENTRY DOORS / FOYER:

- Handles to all entry and exit doors will be disinfected before and after each service
- Handles to restroom and Family Room doors will be disinfected before and after each service.

RESTROOMS:

- Attenders will be encouraged to use the restroom in their home prior to coming to church.
- Attenders will be requested to use the men's and women's restrooms in the hallway by the café. The upstairs restroom and foyer restroom will be closed. The restroom off the side of the foyer will be reserved only for the handicapped or those who would have difficulty walking to the main restrooms.
- We ask that parents accompany grade school children to the restroom. Do not let them go on their own.
- Every staff member and/or volunteer performing cleaning tasks will be required to wear a mask and gloves while cleaning.
- Toilets, urinals, and sinks will be disinfected before and after every service.

SANCTUARY:

- Doors entering and exiting the sanctuary will be propped open to alleviate the need to touch the door handles.
- After each service, the backs of each pew will be disinfected.
- After each service, we will remove all trash and leftover personal items from the sanctuary. Personal items will be taken to the lost and found box.

SECTION 4 - SCHEDULE OF OUR SERVICES & RESERVATIONS



SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

We are conducting two Sunday services to meet the guidelines to reduce the seating in the sanctuary to allow for the proper distancing required. **We are reducing the number attending each service substantially and pray we can resume the normal capacity of our services soon.**

- Our services will be held Sundays at 9:00 AM and 11:15 AM. This allows enough time to clean between services. (effective 6/14/20)
- We will livestream our Sunday 9:00 AM service
- **Reservations are required to maintain attendance counts for each service. Please comply by making your reservation for the upcoming Sunday service through the LT app or our website. (livingtruthcorona.org) If not able, you can call the church office during business hours to make a reservation.**
- **We strongly suggest that you arrive early (10-15 minutes prior to service start time) to be seated for your service start time. You will be asked to line up in the breezeway to be checked in - see map. Ushers will seat you according to our plan to allow for social distancing. Those with special needs (and their family) will be seated first through a separate entrance.**
- Please understand that we will implement adjustments as needed - this is new to all of us!

WEDNESDAY EVENING SCHEDULE

- Our midweek service will continue to be held on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. At this time this service will be livestreamed only.

