

## Old Apostolic Lutheran Church of Tri Cities, Washington

### ANNOUNCEMENT FOR RETURNING TO CHURCH

The Board of Trustees has prepared a plan to preserve the health and safety of the congregation and the community during the covid-19 pandemic as we have now entered into Phase 1 modified. All who enter the church premises we ask that you comply with this plan based on the Washington State Department of Health, the Benton Franklin Health district and the CDC.

### Use of the Church Building During Phase 1 Modified and Phase 2

We are allowed to have 25% of capacity or 50 people Per room whichever is less as long as we maintain six feet of physical distance between households. Ushers will direct you where to sit, Filling the sanctuary before moving into the dining area. At the end of the service the ushers will direct the exit process, please remain seated until your bench is released.

When the patch code is sent out it will have listed which group will be attending the service this has been done using the first letter of your last name. Groups are as follows

- Group A A-I
- Group B J-M
- Group C N-S
- Group D T-Z

**The schedule for September is as follows.** Keep in Mind This can change, and we will update each month or as changes to phases take place.

Sunday September 6<sup>th</sup> Group B and young folks above confirmation age

Sunday September 13<sup>th</sup> Group C young folks above confirmation age.

Sunday September 20<sup>th</sup> Group D and young folks above confirmation age.

Sunday September 27<sup>th</sup> Group A and young folks above confirmation age.

### Meeting Schedule:

September 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> To be announced

Note: Those who are part of the organizational staff for each Sunday may have their families attend with them. (preachers, song leaders, ushers, and sound)

Those at higher risk or uncomfortable attending church are encouraged to continue to receive the telephone patch.

The singing of hymns is encouraged but face masks must be kept on

**To remain in compliance with the Washington State Religious Organization COVID-19 specific safety practices we need to follow these recommendations:**

**Before attending any service at the church building:**

- Perform a self-screen of yourself and children. Those with any signs of illness should stay home until they are symptom-free for 3 days.
- If you have been exposed to COVID -19, the guidelines are to stay home until 14 days have passed since the last exposure.

**Health and safety:**

- Signs are posted with reminders on social distancing, proper hygiene, and wearing face coverings
- Hand sanitizer stations have been set up
- Facial tissues and trash cans are available
- Please refrain from handshaking and embracing
- Face coverings are required for anyone 5 years of age and older. Children age 3 and above are encouraged to wear if possible. Face coverings must be worn at all times and shall not be removed during singing
- Maintain 6 feet of distance between households before, during, and after the service
- Children should remain with their parents
- Parents and others are asked to attend to small children that cannot understand physical distancing, please talk to your children about physical distancing
- Outside the building, physical distancing must be maintained. We do not want any appearance of a large mingling crowd waiting to get in or exiting the building

**Food and Beverages:**

- No coffee, water or meals will be served
- Drinking fountain is inoperable at this time

**Limited use of church building:**

- The nursery is closed
- Ushers will direct church entry and exiting
- A maximum of two people can be in the restroom at the same time; ushers will help monitor this
- The church building will be opened 20 minutes before and close approximately 20 minutes after the service

**Church cleaning:**

- Church cleaning and disinfecting will take place after each church event

If anyone becomes ill with COVID-19 and has been in the church building, please notify Chairman Max Tanninen.